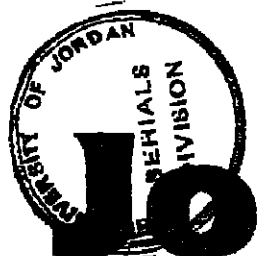


Non-aggression pact under study

ALMA ATA (AP) — U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry said Saturday that the United States, Russia, Britain and Kazakhstan are negotiating a non-aggression treaty. "We would be agreeing to not use force, to use only peaceful means to resolve problems that may emerge between any of these countries," Mr. Perry said in a news conference in the capital of Kazakhstan following a day of meetings with top officials. He cautioned that the agreement, if it is reached, would not amount to a commitment by the United States to provide military protection to Kazakhstan. "It is an assurance, it is not a guarantee. It is not a statement that we would go to war on any issue that arose with Kazakhstan," Mr. Perry said. The announcement capped a day of closed-door discussions on nuclear disarmament and defence conversion in the second-largest of the former Soviet republics.



Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية، الرابطة

Russia sees new peace hope

MOSCOW (R) — Russia's Foreign Ministry said on Saturday that Middle East peace hopes had been revived by a United Nations resolution condemning last month's Hebron massacre and it saw Moscow playing a leading role. "Russia supported speedy adoption of the resolution from the very outset of discussions in the Security Council, considering this an important step in normalising the Middle East situation and in renewing Arab-Israeli talks," a ministry statement said. The statement said recent diplomatic efforts by Russia had paved the way for acceptance of the resolution and ensured a role for Moscow in the Middle East peace process. "Russia intends to do everything it can to implement the U.N. resolution ... and to help Israel and the Palestinians reach agreements as fast as possible," the statement said. Moscow began seeking a new, active role in the region shortly after the Hebron massacre, saying the killings threatened to disrupt peace initiatives. Israel and Tunisia to

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Jordan welcomes Croat-Muslim deal

AMMAN (R) — Jordan on Saturday welcomed a Croat-Muslim pact as part of moves for an overall settlement of the Bosnian conflict and expressed hope Serbs would join the effort to ensure lasting peace. "We back the peace agreement that was reached between the Muslim Bosnians and the Croats," Information Minister Jawad Al Anani said after a regular Council of Ministers meeting. "But we hope that the Serb side will enter this process because their staying outside the peace equation leaves the area threatened," he told reporters (Related story on page 8).

Mortar wounds 3 in Sarajevo

SARAJEVO (AP) — Three people, including two children, were wounded Saturday when a mortar round slammed into a residential neighbourhood of Sarajevo, hospital officials said. It was the first major violation of the Bosnian capital's five-week-old ceasefire. Witnesses said the mortar hit at 5:10 p.m. in the Alipasino Polje section of Sarajevo, a series of high-rise apartment buildings frequently targeted by gunners during the city's 23-month siege. Doctors at Sarajevo's state hospital said a man and his son were in surgery with serious shrapnel wounds and the boy's legs may have to be amputated. (See related story on page 8).

Iraq said to offer prisoner swap

KUWAIT (AP) — Iraq has offered to swap hundreds of Kuwaiti prisoners believed held in its jails for 11 Iraqis on trial in Kuwait for allegedly plotting to kill former President George Bush, a newspaper reported Saturday. The English-language daily Kuwait Times quoted an anonymous "top Gulf official" as saying Iraq had requested Gulf mediators discuss the offer with Kuwait. The report could not be confirmed.

Baku metro blast kills at least 10

BAKU (AP) — A remote-controlled bomb exploded in a crowded Baku metro station Saturday, killing at least 10 people, authorities said. A spokesman for the national security ministry, Mirsalah Ahundov, called it an act of terrorism and said the final toll of dead and injured was expected to rise. The device exploded at about 2 p.m. local time (1000 GMT) in the 20th of January metro station as a train pulled in, witnesses said.

Khmer Rouge HQ falls

RATTANAK MONDOL, Cambodia (AP) — The government captured the Khmer Rouge headquarters of Pailin on Saturday, two days after launching an all-out offensive on the guerrilla base, senior officials said. "The government controls 100 per cent of Pailin as of 6 p.m.," General Por Vannak told reporters Saturday night. Defence Minister Tea Banh confirmed in Phnom Penh that Gen. Por Vannak's statement was correct. (See page 8).

U.N. team due in Iraq today

BAHRAIN (AP) — U.N. weapons experts are heading for Baghdad Sunday to take air samples that will detect any future Iraqi attempts to revive the manufacture of prohibited chemical weapons. Gerald Brubaker, an American leading the six-member team, said the group would concentrate its efforts in the area of Muthana. Muthana is the sprawling government facility outside Baghdad where a U.N. team for more than a year has been disposing of Iraq's arsenal of chemical weapons and material bombed by U.S.-led coalition warplanes during the Gulf war. Mr. Brubaker's team will use sophisticated tubes to absorb air from the site being checked.

Israel, PLO to discuss security, talks resumption

Shahak due in Tunis; Peres and Shaath say self-rule accord timetable could be honoured

Combined agency dispatches

ISRAEL AND the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) moved closer Saturday to resuming autonomy talks, and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said Israeli troops could be out of the Gaza Strip and Jericho within a month after a return to the negotiating table. A senior Israeli delegation, reportedly including chief autonomy negotiator General Amnon Shahak, was to leave Sunday for meetings with PLO leaders in Tunis. The two sides are to find ways to improve Palestinian security in the occupied territories and resume the peace talks.

"The fact that we are returning to a dialogue is a good omen," Mr. Peres said on Israel Radio. "They (the talks) are closer to being on track." In Tunis, PLO spokesman Yasser Abed-Rabbo cautioned that the long-awaited Security Council resolution passed on Friday night was so far just "a piece of paper."

He said the United States and Russia, co-sponsors of the Middle East peace process, must act urgently to implement the resolution's most important aspect — a temporary international presence to ensure Palestinians' security in the occupied territories.

"At last the U.N. resolution has untied the knot. Things began to move," Nabil Shaath, head of the PLO negotiating team with Israel, said in Cairo.

"The next three days will witness intensive work to reach solutions to the two problems — providing security for Palestinians in the occupied territories and the return to the negotiations," Dr. Shaath said.

"The general direction is towards quick measures to provide security arrangements and implement the Security Council resolution in a way that will allow the negotiations to resume in early April," he said.

The PLO broke off negotiations on starting limited Palestinian self-rule in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho after a Jewish settler massacred dozens of Palestinians in a Hebron mosque on Feb. 25.

Syria, Jordan and Lebanon suspended separate negotiations with Israel.

Israel army radio and PLO negotiators said Sunday's talks would cover the issue of security for Palestinians. The U.N. resolution was "a positive step," said the foreign ministry director-general, Uri Savir, a member of Israel's negotiating team.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher told a news

conference in Washington that Israel and the PLO would soon hold senior-level talks on security issues and possible resumption "at an early time" of bilateral peace negotiations.

Before the Hebron massacre those talks were wrestling with the issues of border controls, the size of the Jericho area and security for Jewish settlers.

Virtual deadlock led Israel to postpone the start of its troop withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and Jericho which under the terms of the peace accord signed in Washington last September was to have begun on Dec. 13 and finish by April 13.

PLO negotiator Shaath said Israel was still able to complete its pullout by the deadline, less than four weeks away.

"Practically, the Israelis started withdrawing and began taking all their equipment and documents and closed many of their headquarters. This means an important part of the withdrawal if not all of it can be accomplished by April 13," Dr. Shaath said.

He said it was important to have an organised withdrawal "so as not to have any vacuum during the departure of the Israeli troops and the entrance of the Palestinian forces."

PLO Executive Committee member Samir Ghosheh was

more doubtful about the possibility of soon resuming PLO-Israeli negotiations.

"This is not enough," he said. "What is required are tangible steps to provide safety and security for Palestinians."

His comments were echoed by Sakhr Habash, a member of the central committee of the PLO's mainstream Fatah faction.

"What we want are concrete measures on the ground to protect our people," he said.

Earlier, the PLO said PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat would not meet with Mr. Peres unless the Security Council condemned the Hebron massacre.

However, following the resolution, senior PLO negotiators said any such meeting would depend on the outcome of the talks between the Israeli and PLO envoys.

Palestinian negotiators also said Saturday that Israel must do more to safeguard Palestinians. "We demand from Israel to take immediate and practical steps to protect the Palestinians," said Faisal Hussein, chief PLO official in occupied Jerusalem.

"The Israelis are repeating the same positions, and this is not acceptable," added negotiator Saeb Erakat.

The resolution as a whole

Jordan welcomes U.N. move, awaits consultations

By Nermeen Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan will await a consensus among Arab parties to Middle East peace negotiations before it takes final decision on resuming rounds of bilateral talks in Washington, Information Minister Jawad Anani told the Jordan Times Saturday.

Dr. Anani said that the decision to "cut short" bilateral talks in the U.S. capital in protest after the Feb. 25 massacre of Palestinian worshippers in Hebron by an extremist Jewish settler was taken within an Arab context and had to be similarly reversed.

"We need an Arab decision," Dr. Anani said. His comments came after a cabinet meeting Saturday during which details of a United Nations Security Council resolution condemning the Hebron massacre were discussed.

Dr. Anani said the Kingdom welcomed the Security Council's resolution condemning the massacre but expressed reservations over Washington's decision to abstain from voting on the part of the resolution that described Arab East Jerusalem as Israeli-occupied territory.

"We hope that the Israeli

statements that Jerusalem is the eternal capital of Israel have not received a boost by the American vote," said Dr. Anani.

He said that Jordan had been made to understand that the U.S. abstention "was in line with what they said was the terms of the Oslo agreement which relegates the negotiations over Jerusalem to final status talks."

"But our position is that Jerusalem is an occupied territory regardless of when its final status is to be negotiated," Dr. Anani added.

The minister, however, de-

(Continued on page 5)

Security Council resolution fails to impress PLO officials

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — One day after the United Nations Security Council passed a resolution condemning the Feb. 25 massacre at the Ibrahim Mosque in Hebron, most Palestinian groups argued against resumption of peace talks with Israel.

Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) officials in Amman and Tunis Saturday said they were "disappointed" by the United States' decision to abstain from voting on the clause in Friday's Security Council resolution that referred to the status of East Jerusalem as "occupied."

The resolution as a whole

was welcomed by Tunis-based PLO officials. But the way the U.S. handled it was "very disturbing," said a senior PLO official.

"It took them three weeks, and now the U.S. is no longer sure if East Jerusalem is an occupied territory — something that has been established as fact since 1967. How can we be encouraged by a resolution which was passed halfheartedly?" asked a Tunis-based member of the PLO Executive Committee.

"We specifically said we want to see measures on the ground that create protection for the Palestinian population living under occupation," he said. "As far as we can see

there is no immediate call for action which would guarantee such security," said the PLO official, who preferred anonymity.

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat was meeting with seven Tunis-based executive committee members as well as Palestine National Council members based at the Tunis headquarters Saturday afternoon. The meeting was to review if the PLO would indeed return to the negotiating table or insist on further action by the Israeli government to secure the safety of the Palestinians living in the occupied territories.

U.S. Secretary of State War-

(Continued on page 10)

5-year plan aims at raising standard of living — King

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan's commitment to democracy is equally strong as its commitment to socio-economic development aimed at raising the standard of living of its people, improving the quality of life and achieving justice and equality among its citizens in various regions, His Majesty King Hussein said Saturday.

In an introduction he wrote for the 1993-1997 five-year National Economic Development Plan, King Hussein said: "The human being serves as the main element in the development process as much as he is the objective and end of this plan."

Jordan has set a good example to others in political reform, democratic rule and respect for human rights, and it is determined also to set a good example for others in economic reform and development in which all citizens should be involved.

King Hussein wrote.

"Free individual initiative in the economic and social fields goes hand in hand with the right to freedom of expression in the political arena practised within the framework of democracy and political pluralism and national unity," the King wrote.

Noting that economic planning is not a novelty for Jordan, King Hussein said that the new five-year plan "will not be a carbon copy of its predecessors. It has been designed to cater to the country's needs in the last phase of the 20th century." He voiced deep appreciation to those who contributed to working out the plan.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan said in the introduction to the five-year plan that the provisions worked out in the integrated plan reflect the priority needs

of the Jordanian society.

"The plan aims at fulfilling the national aspirations and enhancing Jordan's intrinsic potential," Prince Hassan added.

"This plan has been drawn up to cater to the new developments at the local and regional levels and largely aims at boosting the economy by giving a significant role to the private sector to embark on investment projects and boost production," Prince Hassan wrote.

The government last September launched the five-year plan which envisages a JD5,243 million overall investment at current prices spread over five years.

Presenting the plan, Minister of Planning Ziyad Fariz said the share of the public sector was estimated at JD1,874 million while the private sector was given a share of JD3,369 million.

House votes to disband all municipal councils by end of 1994 and call polls

By Suhair Obeidat
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Lower House of Parliament Saturday passed a controversial article in a draft-law on municipalities annulling all municipalities by Dec. 31, 1994 and setting elections for all municipalities on a single day in the first half of July 1995.

Article four, as it came in the draft law prepared by the government, had excluded the Municipality of Greater Amman and asked that the annulment and election days be set by the government.

The article in the draft law, as passed by the House, provides for the appointment of temporary local municipal committees for the annulled councils or those the term of which ended until new elections are held.

The government's version of the article called for the appointment of committees by

the Cabinet to administer the affairs of annulled councils and undertake the procedures of electing new councils.

The article also specifies a four-year term for municipal councils. If a council is annulled by law before its term, a local municipal committee is appointed to serve the remainder of the term if it were less than a year.

If the remaining term is more than one year, the temporary committee undertakes its responsibilities for three months during which a new council is elected to complete the term of the former council.

Following another lengthy debate, deputies introduced an item to article nine (which sets the qualifications of the nominees to the presidency and membership of the council).

The item stipulates that the candidates seeking presidency must be university graduates (for governorates), holders of

a general examination certificate (for districts) and be able to read and write (in sub-districts and areas).

The original version only asked that all candidates be literate.

While some deputies opposed this new item on grounds that some candidates might not have a higher education but could be of a calibre that qualifies them to head municipal councils.

Deputy Abdul Karim Dughmi, the judicial committee's rapporteur, argued that handling of municipal affairs requires managerial, executive and technical skills normally available in educated persons.

The House also passed an article on the classification of municipalities according to population.

In their lengthy debates of the draft law, the deputies only managed to get through six

(Continued on page 5)



Two Israeli soldiers open fire at young Palestinian stone-throwers in Ramallah in the occupied West Bank (AFP photo)

Syria: Talks with Israel must focus on territory

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — Syria said on Saturday it would meet Jordan and Lebanon shortly to discuss next month's resumption of peace talks with Israel but insisted there could be no progress without Israeli withdrawal from all Arab lands.

An official spokesman welcomed Friday's U.N. Security Council vote condemning the Hebron mosque massacre and said the three Arab partners had agreed to resume the peace talks that were suspended in February to protest at the killings.

But he made no specific mention of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

"Syria will call the Arab parties involved in the peace talks with Israel to meet soon to discuss resumption of the peace talks in April," the spokesman said.

Diplomats in Damascus did not rule out Palestinian participation in the meeting. "The PLO has clearly expressed a keen interest to rejoin the coordination talks but it is still unclear whether any decision was taken by the other Arabs," one Arab diplomat said.

"Syria is serious and sincere about continuing the peace process within the framework of U.N. resolutions and the

land-for-peace principle. But Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Arab lands is a must for achievement of peace," the spokesman said.

"Syria believes that the horrible massacre against the unarmed Palestinian worshippers ... confirm to the world the necessity of ending the Israeli occupation of Arab lands and reaching a just and comprehensive peace without any delay," the spokesman said.

Officials said U.S. President Bill Clinton had been in constant telephone contact with President Hafez Al Assad in the runup to the U.N. vote and had discussed the draft resolution.

They said Mr. Assad felt the U.N. resolution would lead to more protection of the Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied territories and would prevent any more massacres.

"Syria considers the issue of the Security Council resolution ... and the resumption of the peace talks would provide measures and arrangements by the world community that would ensure protection of our brothers in the occupied Arab lands to prevent repetition of such ugly crimes," the spokesman said.

The Syrian leader tele-

phoned King Hussein and Lebanese President Elias Hrawi after his conversation with Mr. Clinton to coordinate positions.

In addition to condemning the massacre, the U.N. resolution called for a temporary international or foreign presence to ensure protection of the inhabitants of the occupied territories.

The 51-member Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) Saturday welcomed the U.N. Resolution and called on world powers to provide Palestinians with international protection.

The Jeddah-based OIC said its Secretary-General Hamid Al Ghabid "expressed his satisfaction over the Security Council resolution number 904."

He also called on the Security Council, "in particular the permanent members, to seek necessary means for immediate implementation of this resolution and take the required measures to prevent recurrence of similar aggressions."

France said the U.N. resolution must prompt a resumption of talks between the PLO and Israel.

Foreign ministry spokesman Richard Dague said in a state-

(Continued on page 5)

15 injured in W. Bank and Gaza

HEBRON, occupied West Bank (Agencies) — Israeli troops shot and wounded 15 Palestinians in protests in the occupied Gaza Strip and West Bank on Saturday, Arab sources said.

The soldiers wounded 10 Palestinian youths, two of them seriously, in clashes in the Nablus and Ramallah areas in the West Bank. The demonstrators hurled stones at the troops.

Soldiers wounded five more Palestinians in clashes in the Jabalya refugee camp in the Gaza Strip, hospital sources said.

The army said it received reports of eight Arabs wounded by plastic and rubber bullets fired by soldiers.

In Gaza, Palestinians on Saturday observed the third day of a general strike called by Hamas to protest the killing of one of its members by troops.

In the West Bank city of Hebron, about 1,000 Palestinians marched in protest against Friday's U.N. Security Council resolution condemning the Hebron mosque massacre last month.

They burned U.S. and Israeli flags, witnesses said. The Security Council resolution calls for a temporary international or foreign presence, as provided for in the declaration of principles signed by Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) last September, to ensure the protection of Palestinians.

A Palestinian teenager was killed and another seriously wounded in the West Bank on Saturday by an old Israeli army explosive device, Arab sources said.

Relatives said Ala Mansour Abu Dawas, 15, was killed when he and his cousin played with the device in Aqaba near Jenin.

Israel Radio said the boys were apparently preparing an explosive device that blew up prematurely.

But Palestinian reporters said the blast occurred near an area used by the Israeli army and that the boys apparently found a discarded explosive and played with it.

Security Council fails to agree on Iraq statement

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — Iraq has divided the Security Council so deeply that the 15-member body was unable to agree on a public statement on Baghdad's compliance with 1991 Gulf war ceasefire terms.

But whether discussions in the council this past week will help Iraq get sanctions on its oil exports lifted is doubtful. The United States remained firm that Iraq had to comply with more than narrow legal requirements in a 1991 post-Gulf war resolution to get the embargo eased.

And unless the five permanent members of the council are united, the sanctions imposed in August 1990 after Baghdad's troops invaded Kuwait will remain in place indefinitely.

No council member advocated lifting or easing sanctions before U.N. inspectors complete a programme to ensure Iraq does not reacquire weapons of mass destruction. The surveillance measures are not expected to be in place for months.

But France, China and Russia sought to encourage Iraq to continue cooperating with U.N. arms officials by acknowledging Baghdad's progress to date in a statement.

The United States and Britain, the other two permanent members of the council, refused.

In the end the 15-member body council, for the first time in three years, did not issue any statement Friday on its 60-day regular review of Iraqi sanctions, a clear sign of the growing split on how to handle Iraq in the future.

Russia went public and read a press statement advocating lifting the oil embargo once

disarmament requirements are met.

Ambassador Yuri Vorontsov also urged the U.N. Special Commission, dismantling Iraq's weapons, to set a timetable to complete its work.

But Mr. Vorontsov, reflecting the opinion of most council members, insisted that Iraq should immediately "recognise the sovereignty and the borders of Kuwait."

France and China had taken similar positions in council consultations late last year and Brazil has followed suit.

Resolution 687, adopted by the council at the end of the 1991 Gulf war, ties exports from Iraq to weapons requirements while imports to Iraq depend on compliance with a host of other council demands.

Russia, France, China and Brazil want the council to abide by the resolution. The United States, backed in part by Britain, says Iraq must show a pattern of compliance on a variety of issues so that the council can have confidence it won't rearm once oil sanctions are lifted.

To bolster the U.S. argument, Ambassador Madeleine Albright told the council in a closed session that Iraq was massing Republican Guards in Kurdish areas in the north and was putting its forces on a higher state of alert. But neither she nor her spokesman could give further details.

"We do not know whether (Iraqi President) Saddam Hussein intends to renew his offensive against his own people, but he clearly wishes to intimidate them, as well as the Security Council," Ms. Albright told the council.

Ms. Albright reportedly said Iraq's military manoeuvres de-

fied a U.N. resolution requiring Iraq to end repression of its civilians, Kurds in the north and Shiite Muslims in the south.

China, Pakistan and other non-aligned council members have argued that Iraq should be encouraged by public recognition of its progress in satisfying weapons inspectors.

Conditions for lifting the oil embargo are different than the broader conditions for lifting the overall trade embargo. Iraq must meet certain weapons-related conditions for lifting the oil embargo, including full declaration of prohibited arms, their destruction and acceptance of long-term monitoring.

Baghdad Radio reported that Iraqis held a second day of mass rallies Friday to protest the renewal of U.N. sanctions against their country. No details were given on the size of the demonstrations.

Iraq's Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz was in New

York for the week-long Security Council members. Iraqi officials have also visited various capitals of council members, including Paris, Moscow and Abuja in Nigeria.

Mr. Aziz was leading a high-level technical team to discuss the continuing disarmament process and convince the U.N. Special Commission to move faster.

But an official on the commission said: "We can't take short cuts or it will cost more time in the long run."

The technical team is expected to leave Sunday and Mr. Aziz will go back to Baghdad Tuesday, after meeting Secretary-General Boutros Ghali Monday.

Greece, Cyprus boost military cooperation to 'deter Turkey'

NICOSIA (AP) — Greece and Cyprus Saturday said they were stepping up military cooperation to counter what they claim are aggressive moves by Turkish forces occupying the northern third of the island.

The move came amid signs of progress in long-deadlocked U.N.-sponsored talks between Greek and Turkish Cypriots on reunifying the island, divided since Turkey invaded nearly 20 years ago.

Greek Defence Minister Gerasimos Arsenis said the agreement was not meant to undermine the dialogue, only to create a military balance between the lightly armed Greek Cypriot community, numbering 600,000 and the heavily-armed 130,000 Turkish Cypriots.

"Here in Cyprus there is an illegal occupation of part of the island by Turkish troops, many Turkish troops," Mr. Arsenis told a news conference.

"We must restore the balance since these troops refuse to leave," he said, noting the "clearly defensive and deterrent nature of this collaboration."

Turkey invaded Cyprus in July 1974 in the wake of a military coup by supporters of a union with Greece, masterminded by the then military junta in power in Athens.

The northern part of the island was overrun and the minority Turkish Cypriots declared it a breakaway republic in 1983.

Western defence experts estimate the Turkish occupation force at one army corps of

35,000 regular troops, with 300 M-48 tanks and more than 200 artillery guns. There is also a 4,000-strong Turkish Cypriot military, with 26,000 reserves.

The Greek Cypriots have a largely conscript national guard of 10,000 troops, with 88,000 reserves and stiffened by 1,300 Greek officers and non-commissioned officers. They have 52 AMX-30 tanks with 190 artillery pieces.

Greece maintains two infantry battalions totalling 950 soldiers on the island under the terms of Cyprus' 1960 treaty of independence, which authorises Turkey to keep a similarly sized contingent.

Greece and Cyprus agreed to boost military ties last November amid Greek Cypriot claims that Turkey has reinforced its military contingent in northern Cyprus by up to 5,000 men and 100 tanks in recent months.

There has been no independent confirmation of that, but the Greek Cypriots have said it could indicate possible military moves by Turkey.

The claims of a Turkish military buildup in the northern enclave were not repeated at Saturday's news conference.

Diplomats here discount the likelihood of the Turks trying to expand the northern enclave and suspect the Greek Cypriots are seeking to bolster their bargaining position in the U.N. talks.

Greece's newly reelected socialist prime minister, Andreas Papandreu, warned in December that any Turkish advance on the south "means war" and said Athens would

provide air and naval protection for the Greek Cypriots if necessary.

President Glafcos Clerides, the Greek Cypriot leader, last year asked Athens to send an army division to the island. That was rejected by Mr. Papandreu's conservative predecessor, Constantine Mitsotakis.

But Mr. Papandreu has taken a tougher line since he regained office late last year, although it is not clear what his stand is on Nicosia's request for an army division.

Mr. Arsenis, speaking after four days of talks with Mr. Clerides and Cypriot Defence Minister Costas Eliades, said Saturday that Greece will help expand and upgrade Cyprus' military infrastructure and hold joint manoeuvres.

He said Greece would also assist in the "upgrading of personnel" in the national guard, but refused to say whether that meant a further deployment of Greek forces on the island.

Mr. Arsenis said a schedule for implementing the plan had not yet been agreed, but added: "We're moving at a rapid rate."

After much coaxing, Mr. Clerides and Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktaş recently agreed to consider a package of "confidence-building measures" proposed by U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali in an attempt to reopen the stalled peace dialogue.

Mr. Arsenis said a strong national guard was "a precondition to successful diplomatic negotiations."



Palestinian activists stage a march in the occupied Gaza Strip on Friday (AFP photo)

Bosphorus polluted by tanker

ISTANBUL (R) — Turkey has reopened the Bosphorus after putting out a fire on an oil tanker which collided with a freighter, but bad weather was hampering clean-up efforts.

State Minister for Maritime Affairs Ibrahim Tez said fire on the Cyprus-flagged tanker Nassia had been extinguished. Bad weather was preventing barriers from being put in place to contain oil spilled from the ship, he added.

"The Bosphorus has opened to one-way traffic with priority to passenger ships and small ships waiting in the Black Sea because of bad weather there," Mr. Tez told Anatolia news agency.

The environmental group Greenpeace, criticising the Turkish authorities for being ill-prepared for Sunday night's accident in the strait, said oil spills posed a threat to wildlife in the Black Sea, where the tanker was towed after the collision.

"We have been taking aerial photographs and oil slicks up to 25 miles (40 kilometres) long have been sighted on the black sea shores," Greenpeace energy campaigner Melisa Keskin told Reuters.

She said some cormorants had died and six dead dolphins had washed ashore, but the extent of wildlife damage was unclear.

"It's a real mess," Greenpeace oil campaigner Willem-Jan Goossen said in a Greenpeace statement. "There is a lot of oil out on the Black Sea. And as wind conditions worsen with the wind turning north, there is the risk of oil floating ashore."

Mr. Keskin said the authorities, concentrating on fighting the fire, had responded inadequately to the pollution threat.

"It's as if the whole thing was totally unexpected," she said. "Each year thousands of tankers pass through the Bosphorus. There was a similar disaster 15 years ago, but the authorities just do not seem prepared for anything like it."

The Bosphorus closure had created a backlog of more than 350 ships waiting to enter one of the world's busiest sea lanes.

"If our plan goes as expected it will take three days for all ships to pass," said Istanbul Port Authority chief Ismail Sefa Er after the waterway reopened at 10 a.m. (0800 GMT) on Friday.

Twenty-nine seamen were feared killed in the collision between the Nassia and the Cyprus-flagged freighter Ship-broker, whose burned-out hull is still grounded in the Bosphorus.

"No one has gone on board the Nassia yet because the metal is still too hot," Ercan Yalcin, chief of the Karaburun

coastguard station in the Black Sea, told Reuters.

The Nassia had been carrying 98,500 tonnes of crude oil. Ali Riza Yilmaz, an Environment Ministry official, said 19,800 tonnes had burned on the tanker or in the sea.

"Most of the pollution in the Bosphorus and the Black Sea was caused by the remains of burnt oil and chemical foams used to extinguish the tanker blaze," Mr. Yilmaz told a news conference.

He said large, thin layers of oil remains had been monitored in 60 per cent of the 30-kilometre Bosphorus.

Istanbul Provincial Governor Hayri Kozakcioglu said mechanical methods would be used to clear the pollution, rather than chemicals which would cause the oil to sink to the seabed.

He said the government would demand compensation from the insurers of the two ships, but gave no figures.

The accident, the worst in the Bosphorus in 15 years, highlighted Turkey's concerns about the risks of increased shipping to the safety of Istanbul's 10 million people.

The government announced it would speed up plans to install a \$100 million navigation system in the Bosphorus, Marmara Sea and Dardanelles and implement new safety rules from July 1.

Thai police probe links to bomb truck

BANGKOK (AP) — Police are tracking down four foreigners who may have plotted to destroy the Israeli embassy here, and are looking into possible links with last year's bombing of the New York World Trade Centre, the Nation reported Saturday.

The English-language daily quoted a chief investigator as saying police would issue arrest warrants after discovering a house where they believe powerful truck-bomb targeted against the embassy was assembled.

Police Colonel Thammarong Wongpaen said police searching the house uncovered the same explosives as found in the bomb-laden truck last Friday. Police quoted the house owner as saying she rented the premises to four foreigners, described as "Arabs" by neighbours.

By sheer good luck, police found an abandoned six-wheel truck some 500 metres from the Israeli embassy which con-

tained large quantities of C-4 plastic explosives and diesel oil and a one-tonne water tank filled with ammonium nitrate — a fertiliser which could enhance a bomb's explosive effect.

It was wired to a detonating switch on the truck's dashboard. The body of a Thai man also was found in the truck. Police bomb experts said the bomb could have destroyed a large building. The truck bomb that severely damaged New York's World Trade Centre also was believed to have been ammonium nitrate detonated by another explosive.

Col. Sithiporn Noanui of the crime suppression division said Friday a link to the Feb. 26 New York blast was being investigated.

Earlier this year police distributed photographs of three Pakistanis, wanted by the United States in connection with the New York attack. The three were believed hiding in Thailand.

What could have been a major disaster was averted by luck.

The driver of the truck, a man described as in his 30s and Middle Eastern in appearance, abandoned the truck after he accidentally hit two motorcycles parked in front of a department store last Friday.

He fled after trying to offer compensation in foreign currency to the motorcyclists.

Police drove the truck to a police station, where it remained until the truck owner went to claim it Thursday. Noticing the water tank, the owner asked police to check the contents.

The body found in the truck was identified as an employee who had delivered the truck to the man who rented it. The employee had been beaten and strangled.

Police have since stepped up security around the Israeli embassy as well as those of other countries involved in Middle Eastern conflicts.

NEWS IN BRIEF

North slams southern Yemeni leader

SANAA (R) — President Ali Abdullah Saleh's political party on Saturday strongly criticised remarks by rival Vice-President Ali Salem Al Beidh, accusing him of leading a separatist group within his party. "We regret the issuing of such a statement... it makes clear the desire for the return of the totalitarian spirit," said a statement by Mr. Saleh's General People's Congress (GPC). Mr. Beidh, leader of former South Yemen before it merged with the north in 1990, told the Dubai-based daily Gulf News that southerners were so disenchanted with the merger that a majority, if asked, would vote for a return of an independent South Yemen. "Our people are sick and tired of the violence which the union has brought... Indeed, if a referendum were to be held, for example, in the eastern and southern governorates (which constituted the former South Yemen), there would be a clear majority in favour of South Yemen reverting its former statehood."

Hizbollah: Israeli raid killed two

BEIRUT (R) — Israeli planes killed two guerrillas in a Thursday bombing raid in South Lebanon, Hizbollah (Party of God) said on Saturday. The planes bombed a guerrilla-held area hours after Israeli troops ambushed and killed three Hizbollah guerrillas trying to infiltrate Israel's occupation zone in South Lebanon. Hizbollah said at the time that the air raid caused no casualties.

'Iraqi battalions join opposition'

NICOSIA (AP) — A rebel group said Saturday that two Iraqi battalions had joined opposition forces in Iraq's north, the Islamic Republic News Agency (SCRI) reported. The agency quoted the Supreme Council of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SCIRI), a coalition of Shiite Muslim forces opposed to the Baghdad regime, as saying in a statement that there were six officers among the deserters. SCIRI said the battalions were stationed between the Chamechmal region in Kirkuk province and the territory under the control of the self-declared government of northern Iraq, according to the IRNA report monitored in Cyprus. The opposition group said the number of deserters was increasing because of Iraq's harsh economic conditions and the country's isolation. It was not possible to confirm the report.

Turkish candidate's election office attacked

DIYARBAKIR (AP) — Separatist Kurdish guerrillas reportedly hurled hand grenades into a political campaign office in this southeastern city Friday, injuring 17 people. The election office belonged to Tahir Aktas, a candidate of the Social Democrat Populist Party, which is the junior coalition partner in Turkey's government. One of the two assailants was captured, according to the Anatolia news agency. Kurdish guerrillas have been threatening political parties in the region with violence unless they withdrew from local elections scheduled for March 27. The guerrillas are from the Kurdistan Labour Party (PKK), which has been fighting for autonomy in southeastern Turkey since 1984 in a war which has left 12,000 people dead. The Democracy Party, which is believed to have close ties with the PKK, decided to boycott the elections to protest what it called military repression of its party and the Kurdish electorate.

Canadian jailed in death of Somali

PETAWAWA, Ontario (AP) — A 25-year-old Canadian soldier was sentenced to five years in prison and given a dishonourable discharge Friday for his role in the beating death of a 16-year-old boy in Somalia. Private Elvin Kyle Brown was sentenced by the same five officer military court that convicted him Wednesday of manslaughter and torture. It was the first torture conviction in Canada. He could have drawn a life sentence. Mr. Brown may appeal. Military trials of five other soldiers and officers charged in the May 16, 1993, death of Shidane Arone will be held later this year. Arone was arrested after creeping into an abandoned compound next to the camp of the Canadian Airborne Regiment, which was on a peacekeeping mission in Somalia. Taken as a would-be thief, he was bound hand and foot and beaten. The soles of his feet were burned with cigarettes. Mr. Brown admitted punching Arone once and kicking him, but said another soldier inflicted most of the injuries.

Tremor hits south Iran, no casualties reported

NICOSIA (R) — An earthquake measuring 4.2 on the Richter scale jolted on Friday an area of southern Iran where a tremor killed six people earlier this month, Iran's IRNA news agency reported. There were no reports of casualties or damage from the latest quake which shook Firuzabad, a main centre of the semi-nomadic Qashqaei tribe 760 kilometres south of Tehran, it said. On March 1 a quake measuring 5.7 on the Richter killed six people and destroyed 3,000 houses around Firuzabad, which is far from main oil producing centres in southwest Iran. More than a dozen aftershocks hit the area over the following week.

Coptic Christians protest killing

JERSEY CITY (AP) — About 100 Coptic Christians demonstrated Friday in protest last week's slaying of a Jersey City man outside a monastery in southern Egypt. The marchers said they want to bring attention to the killing of Coptic Christians in Egypt in the hope that the United States and Egyptian governments act to stop the violence. The marchers, gathered in downtown Jersey City, chanted "Our blood is not cheap" and "we love Jesus." The group was protesting the death of Sief Shafiq Sief Makar, who was among six people killed last week outside the 1,600-year-old Deir Al Muharrag Monastery, which is considered one of the most important landmarks of Egypt's Coptic Christian faith. Makar was shot March 11 by two gunmen in Assiut, a stronghold of militants in southern Egypt. Two priests and three others also were killed.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

17:30 Feature film
18:00 News in French
19:15 Centre Sur
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 You Bet Your Life
21:10 Doc "Out Of The Past"
22:00 News in English
22:30 Feature film

PRAYER TIMES

04:19 Fajr
05:36 (Sunrise) Dhuha
11:43 Dhuhr
15:10 Asr
17:49 Maghreb
19:06 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swifish, Tel: 210740
Assessments of God Church, Tel: 633541
St. Joseph Church Tel: 634590
Church of the Annunciation Tel: 637400
De la Salle Church Tel: 641757
Terrence Church Tel: 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel: 633541
Anglican Church Tel: 638551, Tel:

628543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel: 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel: 775261
St. Ephraim Church Tel: 771251
Armenian International Church Tel: 652526
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel: 824328
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel: 641959
The Latter-day Saints Tel: 654932
Church of Nazareth Tel: 675691
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel: 811295

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
Temperatures will drop slightly with a chance of scattered showers and winds becoming westerly moderate. In Aqaba, partly cloudy weather conditions will prevail with winds becoming southerly moderate and seas rough.

Min./Max. temp.
Amman 8 / 18
Aqaba 14 / 26
Deserts 6 / 20
Jordan Valley 12 / 23
Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 23, Aqaba 30 Humidity readings:

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Amman 23 per cent, Aqaba 25 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Rauf Zaitoun 886085
Dr. Farouq Nur 786680
Dr. Jihad Zyadah 881148
Dr. Ahmad Khasim 747682
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 778336
Al Asena pharmacy 637085
Nairookh pharmacy 623672
Al Salim pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 640945
Stomach pharmacy 637660
Nairookh pharmacy 623672
Najib pharmacy 847632

IRBID:
Dr. Ahmad Qanu (—)
Alquds pharmacy (—)
ZARQA:
Dr. Tariq Hijawi 985445
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Emergency 630341
Rescue Police 199
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 651176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Complaints 787111
Amman Municipality 787111
Complaints 787111
(directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 81381332
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn 6442816
Akileh Maternity, J. Amn 6424412
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Mallat, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Stomach 6641714
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Mustashar Hospital 6672279
The Islamic, Abdali 66612737
Al-Ahli, Abdali 6641648
Italian, Al-Muhajirin 7771013
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 77511126
Army, Marka 89161115
Queen Alia Hospital 6724950
Amal Hospital 674155

ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)900560
Ton Sina Hospital (09)966732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)990970

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel: (06)53200-5, where it should always be verified.
ARRIVALS
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
05:15 Bangkok (RJ)
06:00 Athens (RJ)
06:35 Aqaba (RJ)
07:00 Aqaba, Rome, Frankfurt (RJ)
08:35 Frankfurt, Paris (RJ)
10:45 Tunis (add) (RJ)
10:50 Vienna (RJ)
11:15 Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
11:30 Rome (RJ)
12:00 Athens (RJ)
12:45 Cairo (RJ)
20:00 Riyadh (RJ)
20:30 Jeddah (RJ)
20:45 Aqaba (RJ)
21:25 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
21:30 New Delhi (RJ)
22:30 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
22:35 Bangkok (RJ)
23:45 Sanas (RJ)
23:45 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

11:00 Damascus (AZ)
12:25 Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (GF)
14:25 Moscow (SU)
19:40 Larnaca (CY)
19:45 Beirut (ME)
20:05 Cairo (MS)
22:20 Istanbul (TA)
DEPARTURES
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
05:30 Aqaba (RJ)
06:00 Beirut (RJ)
07:00 Aqaba, Rome, Frankfurt (RJ)
08:35 Frankfurt, Paris (RJ)
10:45 Tunis (add) (RJ)
10:50 Vienna (RJ)
11:15 Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
11:30 Rome (RJ)
12:00 Athens (RJ)
12:45 Cairo (RJ)
20:00 Riyadh (RJ)
20:30 Jeddah (RJ)
20:45 Aqaba (RJ)
21:25 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
21:30 New Delhi (RJ)
22:30 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
22:35 Bangkok (RJ)
23:45 Sanas (RJ)
23:45 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)

HILJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Amman 8:00 a.m. every Monday
Arr. Damascus 5:00 p.m. every Monday
Dep. Damascus 7:30 a.m. every Sunday
Arr. Amman 5:00 p.m. every Sunday
MARKET PRICES
Upper/lower price in fils per kg.
Apple 550 / 650
Banana 680
Banana (Mukammal) 620
Cabbage 260 / 180
Carrot 200 / 120
Cauliflower 80 / 40
Clementine 260 / 200
Cucumbers (large) 120 / 70
Cucumbers (small) 260 / 180
Eggplant 300 / 180
Garlic 1100 / 800
Grape Fruit 240 / 180
Orange 480 / 180
Lemon 180 / 100
Marrow (large) 80 / 40
Marrow (small) 200 / 120
Olives (groza) 700 / 500
Peach 480 / 180
Onion (dry) 480 / 400
Onion (green) 280 / 200
Peas 800 / 700
Pepper (hot) 500 / 400
Pepper (sweet) 500 / 400
Potato 370 / 280
Radish 120 / 80
Tomato 400 / 200
Spinach 150 / 80
String beans 1100 / 800

Crown Prince Hassan turns 47

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan today celebrates his 47th birthday.

Prince Hassan was born in Amman in 1947 and is the youngest of the late King Talal's three sons. He was proclaimed Crown Prince by Royal Decree in 1965. Among his multitude of responsibilities in the local, regional and international arenas is his active role in the advancement of peace, democracy and human rights at home and abroad, as well as his keen interest in humanitarian causes and international law.

In June last year Prince Hassan addressed the World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna, saying that while he strongly believed in the universality of human rights, the improvement of human rights conditions worldwide was contingent on the improvement of economic and social rights.

The Crown Prince has often stressed a concept of strategic policy that directs attention to social, economic and environmental strategies among others.

Most recently, Prince Hassan was in Croatia where he visited the 3,000 Jordanian security personnel serving with the United Nations peacekeeping forces in former Yugoslavia.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath seen here with their children (right to left) Princess Badi'a, Princess Rahmah, Prince Rashid, Princess Sumaya and her husband Nasser Judeh (Photo by Boghos)



Family, friends and colleagues Saturday gather at the Palace of Culture to attend an eulogy ceremony for the late Bahjat Talhouni (Photos by Yusef Al 'Allan)

Bahjat Talhouni eulogised in special ceremony

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday eulogised the late Bahjat Talhouni, a distinguished statesman and former prime minister, in a ceremony held to commemorate 40 days since the passing of the former prime minister and senior statesman Bahjat Talhouni.

Speakers at the ceremony, which was attended by Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, members of Parliament and senior officials, included Upper House Speaker Ahmad Lawzi, Lower House Speaker Taher Masri, Ahmad Tarawneh, Musa Abu Ragheb, Nassereddin Al Assad, Kamal Shaer and Tawfiq Kreishan.

Mr. Lawzi said Mr. Talhouni had served as prime minister several times during the "most crucial stages of the history of Jordan," after serving as a member in the

first Cabinet formed by His Majesty King Hussein. "Mr. Talhouni will be immortalised in the history of Jordan as one of its most loyal men who left their distinct marks on its political, march and comprehensive development," said Mr. Lawzi.

House Speaker Masri remarked that in addition to Mr. Talhouni's achievements in politics, he always remembered that he had a role in the social development process and thus played a key part in the establishment of several educational institutions and charitable and voluntary societies.

Speaking of Mr. Talhouni's active contributions to the development of the Kingdom during the past 50 years in senior judicial and government posts, Senator Tarawneh said "he had translated

his love for Jordan and his allegiance to its regime into useful and continuous work and efforts."

Senator and literary scholar Assad recited a poem praising Mr. Talhouni and highlighting his role in the history of the nation.

Another colleague, Senator Shaer, also praised the late Mr. Talhouni, saying that over several decades his name had become synonymous with loyalty and sacrifice for the sake of the homeland.

Deputy Tawfiq Kreishan said Mr. Talhouni was always an active statesman and had never shirked his duty towards his country and the Arab Nation, adding that Mr. Talhouni was a strong proponent of Arab unity and solidarity.

Mr. Abu Ragheb portrayed Mr. Talhouni as one of the soldiers of Jordan in all aspects of his life; a soldier in his adherence to his principles and a soldier in his patriotism.

Adnan Talhouni, the elder son of the deceased, addressed the attendees on behalf of the Talhouni family and thanked them for their compassion and words of consolation.

"Before his passing, my father had always believed that he was one of you, and that you were his family and tribe. After his death, every one of us, his children and family, believes and prides himself that he is one of you and that you are our family," he said.

Bahjat Talhouni, who served his country until his death at the age of 80, was laid to rest in the Royal Cemetery on Jan. 31, 1994.

House endorses protocol for FF 83m loan

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Lower House of Parliament Saturday endorsed a draft financial protocol under which Jordan would receive a French loan of 83 million French francs.

The loan, which will be granted for a period of 20 years will finance the purchase of French goods and services for the completion of the gas-generating units project in Sahab. The protocol allows for a grace period of 10 years with an annual interest of one per cent.

The loan would only be valid if contracts were signed before Dec. 31, 1994 and all related

contracts to the financed project should be approved within 3 months of that date.

Lawmakers approved the draft financial protocol after agreeing that it would enhance French-Jordanian relations. The protocol does not allow withdrawing funds after Dec. 31, 1997 unless both governments agree on delaying that deadline if the need arises.

The protocol, which will be considered valid when signed by both governments, enables French officials to conduct final evaluations of the financed projects and their effect on Jordan's financial growth. The Jordanian government may contribute in such evaluations by facilitating the work of the

French committee concerned and giving it access to helpful information related to the evaluation.

Copies of the contracts were signed by the Jordanian and French governments on Jan. 13, 1994, and the joint agreement will be considered valid as of that date if it is approved by the Upper House of Parliament.

During the session, Minister of Agriculture Mohammad Farhan answered a question raised by Deputy Farah Jabadi concerning planting fruit-bearing plants to replace forest trees. Mr. Farhan said that orders concerning the process of planting such trees were

issued annually.

The House unanimously agreed to reject a bid filed by several deputies contesting election results in Irbid District. Lawmakers also rejected the request filed by Minister of Justice Taher Hikmat to strip deputies Hamzeh Mansour, Abdul Rahim Okour and Mohammad Oweidat of their diplomatic immunity after the complaint raised against them by Islamist Ziad Abu Ghannim.

The Lower House also referred to its Managerial Committee several suggestions by deputies concerning services in their districts.

Dams still below capacity — JVA

AMMAN (J.T.) — Despite recent rains the country's dams are still far below capacity, according to Abdul Aziz Wishah, secretary general of the Jordan Valley Authority (JVA).

In a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Dr. Wishah said rainfall between March 10 and 16 was estimated at 3.7 million cubic metres which was far less than expected.

Dr. Wishah explained that the rainwater did not reach the reservoirs because the soil was not sufficiently saturated to allow rainwater to flow on the surface and run down to the streams.

He said the King Talal Dam, the largest in the country, received an estimated 2.4 million cubic metres during this period.

Dr. Wishah said last month the total amount of water in the King Talal Dam was estimated at 48 million cubic metres out of a total capacity of 80 million.

He said Wadi Shueib Dam received 165,000 cubic metres, Kafrein Dam 175,000, Sharhabil Dam 160,000 cubic metres.

Agricultural credit corporation to reschedule farmers' debts

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Agricultural Credit Corporation (ACC) Saturday announced plans to reschedule farmers' debts to the corporation.

ACC Director General Mohammad Abdul Salam Arabiyat said the move was aimed at alleviating difficulties facing the farmers including marketing their crops, low prices of agricultural produce and damage to farmlands as a result of unfavourable climatic conditions in the past two years.

The ACC has taken the decision despite it adversely affecting the corporation's liquidity and its ability to fully honour its financial obligations in the coming years, said Mr. Arabiyat.

The ACC is committed to repaying the funds it had loaned to the farmers, plus interest, to foreign creditors, as well as cover its own administrative expenses, said the ACC chief.

Earlier this month, Minister of Finance Sami Gammoah said the government was conducting a comprehensive revision of the agricultural sector in order to tackle impediments to production and marketing.

Jordan Valley farmers had threatened to strike to urge the government to help them market their products locally and abroad and deal with their



Woman selects lemons from roadside stand. The recent low market price of the fruit has been among grievances of farmers and citrus growers in the Kingdom (Photo by Aynsley Floyd)

other grievances.

Mr. Arabiyat said the ACC decision will be implemented in accordance with a plan that entails case by case studies before rescheduling of loans can be approved.

He said arrangements will be

made whereby each indebted farmer will be able to repay the loans and interest over an extended period.

Mr. Arabiyat added that a special technical committee has been formed to study each case and give priority to farmers with severe difficulties.

2nd Jordanian bank is licensed to open in occupied territories

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Arab Land Bank has received Israeli license to reopen two branches in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and plans to start operations in late April, banking officials said Saturday.

They said the bank, whose headquarters are in Cairo, received the licenses from the Bank of Israel last week after the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) issued preliminary licenses.

The bank is seeking to reopen up to five branches in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, but it received Israeli approvals for only one branch in the West Bank town of Bethlehem and the other in the Gaza Strip, they said.

The Arab Land Bank became the second known Jordanian bank to get Israeli licenses in line with a memorandum of understanding

signed by Jordan and Israel in December.

The Bank of Jordan got an Israeli license last week to reopen a branch in Ramallah in the West Bank.

Other Jordanian banks which have received preliminary licenses from the CBJ include the Arab Bank, Jordan's largest commercial bank, the Jordan-Gulf Bank and the Jordan National Bank. The CBJ is known to have issued preliminary licenses for a total of eight branches of the five banks.

The applications of Jordanian banks for Israeli licenses were being processed, a bank of Israel spokesman said last week.

Jordan closed all 31 branches of eight banks in the West Bank and Gaza Strip when Israel occupied the territories in the 1967 war.

One of them, the Cairo-Amman bank, reopened in 1986 under a special arrange-

ment under which it operated under Bank of Israel control. The restrictions imposed by the Bank of Israel discouraged other banks from following suit.

The path was set for the reopening and functioning of Jordanian banks under CBJ regulations and control when Jordan and Israel signed the December memo, the Cairo-Amman Bank will also be brought under CBJ control under the provisions of the memo.

Jordan followed up the memo with an agreement on economic cooperation with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), which is poised to lead Palestinian autonomy in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho under the Sept. 13 Israel-PLO accord on five years of interim self-rule in the occupied territories.

Officials have said the CBJ role in the banking and monetary affairs in the occu-

pled territories was warranted since the Jordanian dinar will be in circulation in the occupied territories, and it was up to the Palestinians to decide what should be their "legal tender."

"As long as the dinar remains in circulation in the occupied territories, the Central Bank of Jordan will be in control of the banks that deal in Jordanian dinars," said a senior official.

The first wholly Palestinian bank, the Commercial Bank of Palestine, with a \$14 million capital, is also awaiting Israeli approval to start operations in the occupied territories.

Most of the banks that plan to reopen their branches in the occupied territories have been preparing for the move for several months now. All of them have also been offering training to staff from the occupied territories at their Amman branches and head offices.

More massacre victims to arrive for treatment

By Elia Nasrallah Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The national committee charged with fundraising for the victims of the Hebron massacre expects more wounded to arrive in Jordan in the coming days for medical treatment at Jordanian hospitals, according to committee spokesman Ahmad Helayel.

The committee is also awaiting the arrival in Amman soon

of a Hebron panel to discuss allegations to the families of the those killed or wounded in the Feb. 25 massacre in which more than 60 Muslim worshippers were killed and hundreds wounded. Dr. Helayel told the Jordan Times.

The Jordanian and the Hebron committees should meet in order to apportion the donations accordingly, said Dr. Helayel, adding that the size of the families of the massacre

victims would be considered.

He said the funds raised so far in Jordan have reached JD 800,000, and more continue to come in from the governorates.

The national committee met Saturday under the chairmanship of Chief Islamic Justice Izzeddin Al Khatib Al Tamimi to review the funds collected and the donor lists as well as the fund-raising activities in the governorates, said

Dr. Helayel who is also secretary general of the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs.

He said committee members Saturday visited the four of the wounded now being treated at the King Hussein Medical Centre and gave each one JD 1,000 as part of the contributions.

The four victims who arrived for treatment here Friday are Imad Suleiman, Jihad Abu Minshar, Talal Abu Sneh and Mohammad Jaabari.

Introspect artist seeks new way of expression

By Ica Wabbeh Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Sober, monumental, refreshing, the sculptures Samer Tabbaa exhibits at the Darat Al Funun are ingenious works of an introspect artist seeking new ways of expression.

Making use of conventional and less traditional media, Mr. Tabbaa's representations are impressive, dominating, imposing. Wood is covered with tar in a four-square panel to create a huge "black hole," or covered with a layer of cement and glue and painted over with pastel, varnish or acrylic to represent abstract figures and give movement and depth to the sculptures.

The dedicated artist has worked on most of his creations on display for two years, but some had been started 14 years ago and ever since touches here and there were added to reach the present state.

The three-dimensional figures are ingeniously carved and neatly shaped, with painstaking attention to detail

that creates original figures.

Metal is worked with love and care. Not twisted, wrung, contorted, violently distorted out of shape representations for the artist. He takes his metal sheets to Aqaba to rust on the beach before working on them with pencil or gently works on them to give them steel appearance. Painted or inked over, in its natural state, cut or welded, the metal is treated with respect, almost reverently.

Parallel lines are a recurrent motif with the artist. They appear in sculptures but also in his drawings performed on paper with acrylic, graphite, charcoal and pencil. The lines are vertical, horizontal, sinuous, criss-crossing in both his bi- and tri-dimensional works. They create space and movement, restrict and free, tease the eye and challenge it to find meanings and soar.

A four-figure, tall group of "Two Pencils and Two Crayons" was inspired by the pencil the artist used in his works, especially the one entitled "Graphite and Tar Kitkat" whose entire wooden

surface was blackened by pencil.

The imposing, dominating aerodynamic figures worked in wood and tar and coloured with pigment and silver powder mixed with linseed oil seem ready to take off, an abstract homage to the power of the word symbolised by these pencils.

Perhaps the most interesting piece is the one entitled "Gold Rush," a thick, square panel of wood and tar carved for varying-size irregular holes out of which pieces are extricated and glued next to them. The alternating gold and black colours of the panel create a rich pattern reminiscent of a mine shaft and the gold nuggets of El Dorado.

An eight-piece group of square panels (again wood and tar which lends itself very well to carving) is like a geological map of our planet, with different strata unearthed and carbonised fossils exposed. It is a rich, lustrous, almost sensual work that also could sensibly and literally bring one down to mother

earth.

"Two Figures at Right Angle" is more than just that. The three-dimensional, tall-standing figure is assuming a fourth, spiritual dimension, as at the angle where the two wooden figures meet there are spaces left open, leading to an ethereal cosmos, freeing the eye and the soul to search.

An interesting installation is that of a suspended figure (shark skeleton-like) in tar with the dentated area painted in red hanging over a rectangular tray whose sheen reflects and completes the whole.

Perhaps the best way to understand the artist, other than through viewing his work, are via his words: "I seek elemental power in the material that I am using at the time. I collaborate rather than subjugate, seeking maximum freedom by establishing a dialogue whereby all options are open, but only one is optimum."

The works will be on display from March 20 until April 20.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

King congratulates Tunisia

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday sent a cable to Tunisian President Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali, congratulating him on his country's national day. King Hussein wished Mr. Ali good health and happiness and the Tunisian people further progress and prosperity.

Stamp to mark Crown Prince's birthday

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Communications and Postal Affairs Saturday decided to issue the first commemorative stamps of 1994 marking the 47th birthday of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, which falls today. Ministry Secretary General Abdullah Al Jazi said he hoped that the issuance would reflect the efforts exerted by the Crown Prince in supporting and chairing the board of the Jordan Hashemite Charity Organisation in carrying out its humanitarian role at the Arab and international levels. The stamps would be issued in two denominations: 80 fils and 125 fils. Dr. Jazi added that they would be available at all post offices around the Kingdom and at the ministry.

WHAT'S GOING ON

EXHIBITIONS

★ Opening of an exhibition of sculptures and drawings by Jordanian sculptor Samer Tabbaa at 6:00 p.m. Also showing "permanence" exhibition of 54 Arab contemporary artists at Darat Al Funun of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Luweibdeh (Tel. 643251/2).

★ Exhibition entitled "Writers Do Draw" by Jamal Naji, Ibrahim Nasrallah, and Farouq Wadi at the Royal Cultural Centre.

★ Plastic art exhibition by Syrian artists Abdul Qader Azzouz and Asim Al Droubi at the Phoenix Gallery for Art and Culture (Tel. 695291).

★ Exhibition by Iraqi artist Turki Abdullah at the Baladna Art Gallery.

★ Exhibition by artist Amer Mohammad Rashad entitled "A Thousand and One Nights" at the Royal Cultural Centre.

FILM

★ Film entitled "White Hunter, Black Heart" at the American Center at 5:00 p.m. (110 minutes).

Jordan Times

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Challenge after resolution

WHILE THE U.N. Security Council resolution that was adopted Friday on the Hebron massacre brought forth immediate results culminating in Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and the PLO accepting to rejoin the peace talks, the price for its passage was not insignificant. What held up the endorsement of this resolution that finally condemned the slaughter of over sixty Palestinian worshippers last month was the issue of Jerusalem. Washington got its way by first putting the reference to Jerusalem in the preambular paragraphs of the resolution and then by abstaining on it in spite of this downgrading. What is puzzling and disturbing about this new position by the U.S. on Jerusalem is the fact that it comes contrary to all previous Security Council resolutions on the Holy City, which rejected its annexation by Israel and called for rescinding all measures taken to alter its character. All adopted resolutions condemning the Israeli occupation and annexation of Jerusalem were heretofore supported by the U.S. But what adds insult to injury is what happened to the U.S.' thinking as far as application of the Fourth Geneva Convention of Aug. 12, 1949, to East Jerusalem. The preambular paragraph in the resolution addressing that issue is merely an innocent expression about the application of the convention to any territory occupied by force, and it does not make any determination on sovereignty rights as such. Yet it was effectively rejected by Washington. Can it be that the Clinton administration does not concede that East Jerusalem was occupied by Israel during the 1967 Arab-Israeli war? Once there is an admission that Arab Jerusalem was in fact occupied by Israeli forces in 1967, there can be no legal justification to refuse the application of the Fourth Geneva Convention to it. Had the U.S. simply said that according to all relevant international resolutions Jerusalem should enjoy a special international regime and therefore no nation, including Israel, may have sovereignty rights over it, then the Arab side might have understood that stance. But to deny altogether that East Jerusalem is an occupied territory defies logic and comes as a stark contradiction to previous Security Council resolutions on the city. The reservation of the U.S. delegation on the reference to Jerusalem has only a political significance but no legal import. Resolution 904 was adopted in its totality without the U.S. casting a negative vote. This fact reduces the implications of the U.S. reservation and would not rob the resolution of its binding effect on all parties. In this sense the passage of the resolution was a big step forward even though it took more than three weeks to adopt it. Beyond that, if the resolution has indeed opened the door for the resumption of the peace process, especially after having made arrangements for greater security for the Palestinians, then it will have been worth it.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

WASHINGTON'S DECISION not to recognize Arab Jerusalem as part of the occupied Arab lands of Palestine came under bitter criticism by Al Rai's Arabic daily Saturday. This new stand on the part of the U.S. administration does not only undermine the Arab-Israeli peace process but would also pave the ground for Washington's recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital, said the daily. This is indeed a dangerous development in the U.S. attitude and one that reflects the desire of the U.S. administration to abandon the peace process altogether, added the paper. The new American position has prompted His Majesty King Hussein to contact the Arab leaders and to seek a united Arab stand vis-a-vis the status of Jerusalem. King Hussein has called his brothers, the Arab leaders of Morocco, Syria, Egypt and Tunisia, underlining the importance of collective Arab work to safeguard the Arab character of the holy city and defend Arab and Islamic rights in Palestinian lands, continued the daily. It said that King Hussein has warned of the danger inherent in this attitude on the peace process and he has sought Arab collective action and speedy reaction at the highest levels to fend off this grave danger.

COMMENTING ON the U.N. Security Council's decision to extend the embargo on Iraq, a columnist in Al Rai's daily said that the decision reflected a failure on the part of the world community and the world organization to uphold the U.N. charter and its provisions, which call for the protection of smaller nations' rights. Tareq Masarweh said that the decision is considered a violation of the basic human rights and the right of the weak, the young and the old to survive and to receive basic requirements like food and medicine. Such decision represents an injustice and humiliation reminiscent of those to which the German people were subjected after the World War II, said the writer. He said that the council's decision against Iraq is pushing the Iraqis further to the wall and forcing them to take a step that could pave the ground for another war in the region. The writer, who quoted Iraqi President Saddam Hussein as warning that the Iraqis would have to choose another path should the Council decide to extend the embargo, said that the world community should take notice of the warning and defuse tension and prevent further sufferings for the Arab people in this region.

SUNDAY'S ECONOMIC PULSE

Top Palestinian economist speaks out

By Dr. Fahed Al Fanek

YOUSEF SAYEGH is the chief Palestinian economist. He supervised and conducted most of the studies and economic plans drawn by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) during the past five years. He was also the most senior Arab economist who engineered the documents of the Arab Development Decade, adopted by the 11th Arab Summit conference, held in Amman in 1980.

Thanks to Mustafa Hamarneh, director of the Centre for Strategic Studies at the University of Jordan, I was given, along with a selected group of Jordanian scholars and economists, the opportunity to meet with Dr. Sayegh, the senior Palestinian economic expert and listen to his evaluation of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement on principles, and its economic annexes.

Dr. Sayegh presented his well-thought of reservations about the nature of the secret negotiations which took place in Oslo-Norway and led to the accord. Among his reservations are: the complete absence of Palestinian institutions, lack of coordination with Jordan and other Arab countries surrounding Palestine, conducting serious negotiations behind the back of the official Palestinian delegation in Washington, D.C., and without technical experts and advisors which forced the Palestinian negotiators, facing complicated legal issues, to consult the Israeli legal advisor accompanying the Israeli delegation.

Dr. Sayegh was bitterly critical of the text of the accord and the annexes. Among the points raised by the veteran economist were: too much ambiguity when it comes to Palestinian demands, and too much details and clarity when it comes to Israeli demands. Many crucial principles were missing, there

was no mention of occupation, equal treatment, self-determination (at least in the economic sense), control of natural resources and confiscated areas. Besides, the agreement deferred certain crucial issues such as the fate of Jerusalem, borders, settlements and refugees. The process of autonomy was fragmented horizontally i.e., from a geographical point of view; and vertically, i.e., from the types of authorities' stand point.

Dr. Sayegh pointed out that the word "agriculture" was never mentioned in the accord simply because of its connection with land and water. The future autonomy authority was deprived from any power to exercise custom duty on imports because Israel intended to control trade and all points of entrance. The Palestinian economy is to be divorced from the Jordanian and other Arab economies and used as an Israeli backdoor, to be attached to the Israeli economy vis-a-vis the Arab economies, including the Jordanian economy. Dr. Sayegh summed up the process as converting the status quo which is a subordination to the Israeli economy from being

compulsory under direct occupation to become voluntary and permanent after the agreement. Likewise, all security issues were left to the full discretion of the Israeli authorities, which have a flexible definition of the term security, so that Israel may control every activity on the pretext that it has a security dimension.

Dr. Sayegh pinpointed the Israeli strategic objective of preventing Palestine from cooperating economically with Jordan, an objective which meets the personal approval of PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, who aims at the establishment of a Palestinian Central Bank despite the absence of Central Bank traditions and experience. He wanted a Palestinian currency to replace the strong and well-established Jordanian dinar which, in the opinion of Dr. Sayegh, will be an economic disaster.

Finally Dr. Sayegh stated unequivocally that Israel is after a free trade area, or a custom union, to be tailored to fulfil the best interest of one side, the Israeli side at the expense of the other side, the Palestinian side. He dismissed out of hand the idea that an Israeli economic normalisation with Jordan and other Arab countries will be ineffective just like the economic normalisation of Israel with Egypt.

Dr. Sayegh is a moderate Palestinian and an Arab national. He does not belong to the so called rejection front. He is not against negotiations and peaceful settlement, but he thinks that the terms and conditions could have been better, and that many Palestinian concessions were excessive and unjustified.

In the subsequent negotiations in Taba and Cairo, the PLO tried to get more than it accepted in Oslo, but ended up accepting less than the Oslo agreement allowed.

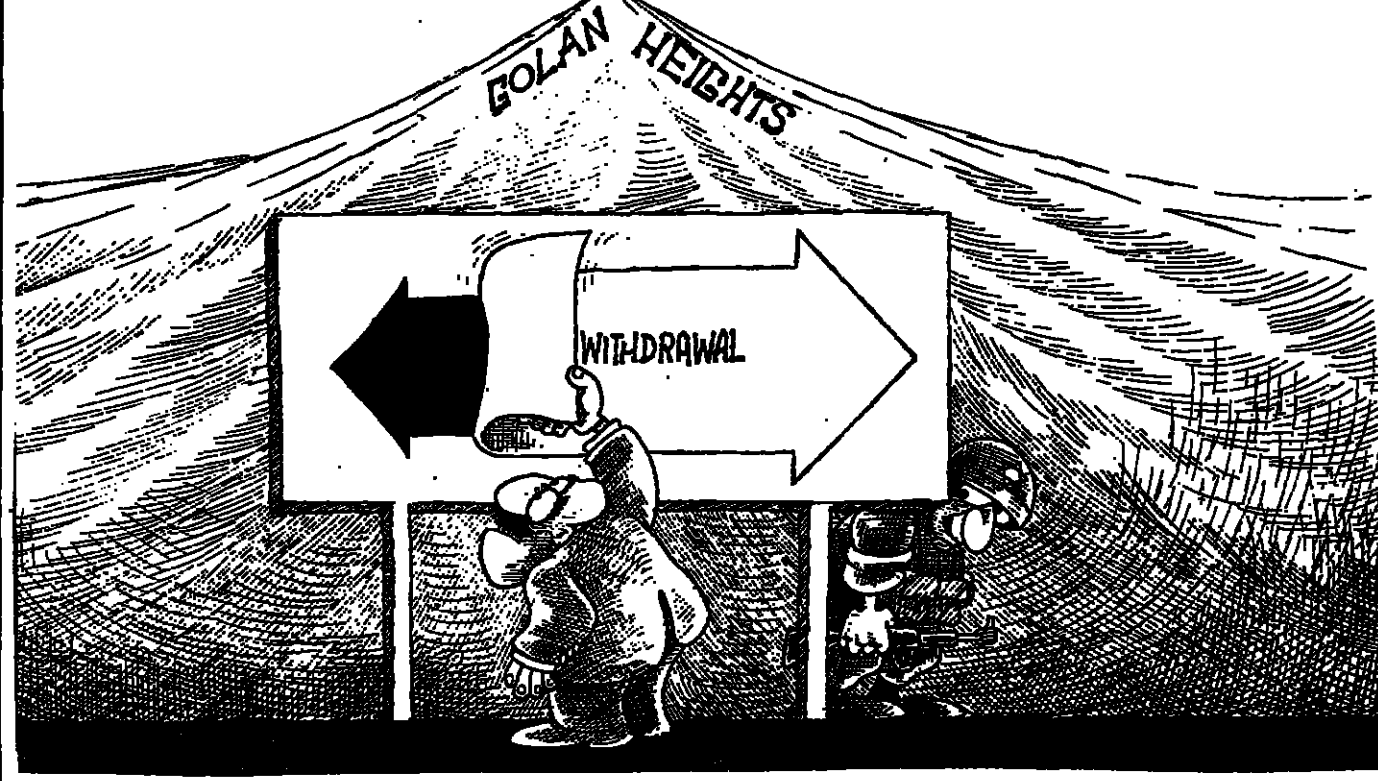
By Hisham Dajani

NOW THE hullabaloo of the Clinton-Assad summit in Geneva in January is over, one can turn back to the Golan file to highlight some items in the Syria-Israel dispute and to study more subtly the differences in attitude. Both before and after 1967, the territorial disputes between Syria and Israel had a dynamic of their own. These disputes and the strategies behind them hastened the June 1967 war and led to Israel's conquest of the Golan Heights. Apart from the strategic significance of the area, the Golan is also important for its regional water sources (MEI 464). This is particularly true of the area of Mt. Hermon, the site of the headwaters of the River Jordan. Also the Spring of Banvas, a major source of the Jordan, is located on the lower slopes of the Golan.

There appear to be three points of view on the Golan within Israel. First, an ambivalent position with respect to the extent of potential withdrawal from the area; second, the necessity of retaining the area; and third, a total Israeli withdrawal in order to attain full peace with Syria.

The officially declared current position represents the first viewpoint. The pronouncements of Itamar Rabinovich, the chief Israeli negotiator with the Syrian delegation at the peace talks, outlined the official Israeli position as follows: Syria must spell out the nature of the peace it would be willing to agree with Israel before Israel defines the extent of the withdrawal it would be willing to make from the Golan. This position amounts to a conditional peace according to the formula: a peace of peace for a part of land. Such a peace, according to Mr. Rabinovich, must entail full diplomatic, cultural and economic relations. Some of the advocates of this point of view argue that despite the geopolitics of the Golan, disengaging Syria

M. KAHIL



The Golan: still a long way from resolution

from the Arab-Israeli conflict justifies finding a basis for territorial compromise. But some of those advocates oppose the dismantling of Israeli settlements. Only a small minority of Israelis regard the evacuation of all settlers as an inevitable price to pay for a peace treaty.

Needless to say, the second point of view — the need to retain the Golan — is held mainly by many in Likud and a number of Labour hardliners. They assume that Syria is not ready for peace and in any case it could not be trusted to honour it. Furthermore, they argue Israel can scarcely contemplate a territorial compromise on the Golan because of security considerations.

The third Israeli trend reflects the thinking of Labour Party doves in general and others to their left who maintain that Israel should think

seriously about the principle of an almost total withdrawal in return for full peace. Those who hold this view believe that it is time to realise that peace and security can exist without being conditional on keeping occupied land. They correctly argue that Syria would not enter into a peace agreement without the Golan. Security, they say, is not only secured by real peace, strict demilitarisation and security guarantees.

Syria cannot match Israel economically or militarily. Israel is a nuclear power whose security and wellbeing are guaranteed by the U.S., while Syria has lost its superpower ally.

In strategic terms, Syria considers the Golan a critical national defence against Israel. At the same time, Syria views itself as the cham-

pion of Arab interests. Its perception of its role in the region is a factor that should not be forgotten. Security and role perception constitute the framework that shapes the Syrian perspective on the Golan. The factors that shape this strategy are both military — tactical and geographic — and economic. The first is connected with terrain, since the continued Israeli occupation of the Golan presents strategic dangers that are compounded by the absence of natural barriers. The Israeli army is just 35km from Damascus. The Golan in Syrian hands would provide crucial defensive depth for the country's security.

From an economic perspective, Syria's interests are primarily water-related. The Golan is a particularly important region because of its water sources. The fact that

the water situation in the region has greatly deteriorated and the region faces water shortages makes this dimension of the conflict particularly important.

Whereas Israel insists that Syria has to spell out in advance the nature of peace, the Syrians, until the summit in Geneva, showed no hurry to do that. There is no guarantee, they argued, that even then Israel would commit itself to a total withdrawal from the Golan. Israeli failure to respond positively to Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) concessions justified the Syrian attitude of not making unilateral concessions without receiving a reciprocal commitment to such concessions from Israel. But in Geneva there was some shift in the Syrian stance when President Hafez Assad surprised his audience by saying he was ready to sign

a peace treaty now, and that "normal relations" with Israel meant open borders, trade and diplomatic relations. Once again it was proved that the old Syrian principle of reciprocity was justified, because Mr. Assad, having made these concessions, has not so far got anything in return. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin found "nothing new" in what Mr. Assad said in Geneva. Nevertheless, it is unquestionable that Syria will not concede to Israel any part of the Golan.

The territorial dispute between Syria and Israel is a central focus of conflict. The situation is still in a state of stalemate, with no genuine prospects for any imminent settlement. While Syria publicly expresses its readiness to live in peace with Israel inside the pre-1967 borders, Israel has not yet taken a final position on the extent it is prepared to concede on the Golan. It still hesitates to pay the price of peace with Syria. Even when some Israeli officials do talk about withdrawal, they talk in a deliberately ambiguous manner. They talk about withdrawal "on Golan" and not "from Golan".

If the Golan for Israel is not simply a question of security, but also a question of settlements, water and domestic politics, for Syria it is a matter of dignity as well as security, since it is an integral part of the country. No Syrian leader is likely to accept less than Egypt, accepted from Israel: total withdrawal for total peace with balanced security arrangements.

Middle East International.

Effrontery, incompetence and cover-up at the CIA

By Ronald Kessler

WASHINGTON — The day after the arrest of the accused spy Aldrich H. Ames was announced, the CIA director, R. James Woolsey, met with several hundred Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) employees in the agency's auditorium at Langley, Virginia. After recounting what employees already knew from the news media, Mr. Woolsey — whose address was seen on closed-circuit television by every CIA employee — spent five minutes explaining why he himself had refused to take a polygraph test although other recent directors had taken it.

Besides the fact that political appointees are not required to take such tests, he said he remained "sceptical" about the polygraph's effectiveness.

The speech sickened many officers, according to one who watched. They point out privately that they, too, have questions about the efficacy of the polygraph, but are required to take the test every five years or lose their jobs. That the director would

not take it, and then would have the effrontery to defend his decision even after the disclosure of what seems to be the biggest security breach in the agency's history, tells a lot about the indifference that allowed the Ames case to happen.

It also underscores how effectively the CIA has covered up its own incompetence. Contrary to news reports and to the impression that Mr. Woolsey conveyed, the polygraph was apparently accurate in Mr. Ames's case.

According to several people inside and outside the agency who are familiar with the results, he failed all three tests that the CIA gave him after he allegedly began spying in 1985. In each case the examiner found that he was not telling the truth when he denied giving out classified information.

When Mr. Ames failed the first test in 1986, the examiner who interrogated him prepared a report for his superiors — who simply shelved it.

In 1991 he again failed a lie detector test, was given a second one and failed again. But the CIA polygrapher

bought Mr. Ames's explanation — that he was worried about his financial investments and that his concern had registered on the machine as a deceptive response. "I don't think he is a spy, but he does have money problems," the examiner concluded in his report.

Thus the controversy about why Mr. Ames appears to have been able to beat polygraph tests has been built on a deception fed by the CIA.

After he became a suspect some 10 months ago as a result of a defector's tip, the agency ordered that the damaging polygraph results not be shared with other agencies, according to a person familiar with the case.

But a joint Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) CIA team that was already working on the case had seen the results. FBI officials were accustomed to the CIA's blasé attitude about internal security, but they were astounded that the results had been ignored.

Questions have been raised about the accuracy of polygraphs. But in skilled hands they are surprisingly reliable.

A 1987 study reviewed 20,000 FBI polygraph determinations since 1973, asking agents whether in retrospect the results had been correct. The study found that less than one per cent had been wrong. While people can be trained to fool the polygraph with muscle control and other techniques, a good polygraph operator can often penetrate such stratagems.

Three of America's top polygraph examiners work at the CIA, but most of the others — including those who examined Mr. Ames — lack the expertise for such sensitive work.

How the agency could disregard its own tests becomes easier to understand in the context of its whole attitude about security. One might ask how the agency could allow a heavy drinker like Mr. Ames to continue in his sensitive job, but the fact is that only the most public and embarrassing drunkenness is ever cause for discipline.

And how could the agency have allowed Mr. Ames to have access to such a wide range of information? The agency's vaunted "compartmentation" giving informa-

tion only to those with a need to know it — is a joke. Supervisors boast of major successes at meetings and officers exchange secrets over lunch or — in Mr. Ames's case — during smoking breaks outside headquarters.

And in recent years Mr. Ames sat on two promotion boards that allowed him to learn the identities and recruitment successes of hundreds of CIA officers throughout the world. The agency not only protects its own, it punishes those who blow the whistle by objecting to lax discipline. They are considered troublemakers who do not understand the system.

And it is the CIA itself, rather than some outside agency, that is investigating what went wrong. Burton L. Gerber, who will be in overall charge of the investigation, is one of those who promoted Mr. Ames.

The security system is a failure and must be rebuilt piece by piece. And if the CIA is to continue protecting the United States from potential threats from abroad, it must take drastic action to change the agency

climate that led to the Ames case.

That change must begin at the top. Mr. Woolsey must show that he is ready to make a clean break with the sloppiness of the past, by tightening the rules and making an example of those who tolerated infractions.

Most major corporations hire former FBI agents to run their security departments. Much as the CIA might oppose such an intrusion, the White House should insist on it.

As for that polygraph test that Mr. Woolsey would not take, he should not overlook the importance of symbolism. When he arrogantly refuses to submit to the same security procedure as everyone else, he not only shows that he condones unconscionable laxity. He suggests that he is not up to the task of correcting it.

The writer is author of "Inside the CIA" and, most recently, "The FBI: Inside the World's Most Powerful Law Enforcement Agency." This article is reprinted from The New York Times.

Africa's most successful women

By Thalia Griffiths
Reuters

LOME — The women toiling among mounds of neatly folded cloth on the first floor of Lome's grand market are big players in Togo's economy.

Nicknamed the nanas benz, they gossip, eat and feed their babies among the shelves as dealers from Nigeria, Benin, Ghana and further afield circle the dimly lit stalls dismissing the quoted price with a contemptuous click of the tongue.

Elegantly clad and laden with gold jewellery, they get their name from the Mercedes cars which the more successful among them park discreetly behind the market. The more lowly cloth-sellers outside the main market are known as nanettes.

The trade in lengths of African printed cloth, known in French as pagnes, is the main employer of women in Togo. All the more important in a country where the economy is at a virtual standstill and unemployment is rife.

"It's a women's trade. It gives us independence. With polygamy, that's important. A woman can have her own home with her family and the man comes by occasionally," said Evelynne Trenou Dede, who inherited her business from her mother.

Togo has the lowest import duties in West Africa, which in the past made it ideal for import and re-export businesses.

But political turmoil in the past four years, particularly an eight-month general strike that ended in August, has taken its toll.

Neighbouring Benin, whose customs duties are almost as low and whose political transition has taken over much smoother, has taken over much of Togo's trade.

Now the whole business is threatened still further by a massive 50 per cent devaluation of the CFA franc on Jan. 12, which has doubled the price of the imported cloth.

"It's an absolute disaster," said Ms. Dede, whose shop on the edge of the market was piled with cloth but empty of customers.

The cost of a 12-yard (11 metre) length of brightly coloured, intricately printed cloth has jumped from 23,000 CFA (39) to about 45,000 (76) and will rise to 47,000 (80) when the new exchange rate is used to calculate customs tariffs.

"People had just started to come back after the end of the strike in August but now dealers are taking some stock and finding they're unable to sell it," Ms. Dede said.

"We're still selling the old stock at the old price but that has to disappear from the market before we can sell the new designs at the new price."

The best quality pagnes come from the Netherlands, but they are also produced in Britain. Local pagnes are cheaper, but of lesser quality.

The industry was started in the 1880s by Scotsman Alexander Brown Fleming, who in Java saw the Batik technique of printing a design onto cloth by waxing the parts not to be dyed.

In West Africa, he saw the tie-dyeing of indigo cloth and realised there was a market for different designs.

"Dutch wax is the Rolls Royce of textiles," said Alan Nuttall, Textiles director of UTC, Togo's main importer, which brought in seven to eight million yards of fabric a year in the 1980s. In 1993, it imported only about one million yards because of the strike.

As well as supplying its major clients, the firm makes up small assorted lots of cloth for the market women at the wholesale price.

Tourists are virtually ignored in the market, where the women sell only by the 12-yard piece, leaving smaller lengths to the nanettes outside.

Wax pagnes are produced by a lengthy process in which the fabric is printed with a layer of wax. The different colours of the pattern are dyed onto the cloth and then the wax is washed off, leaving areas of lighter colour below the print.

Dutch designers visit the region two to three times a year to see which fabrics are selling well. Designs vary from the traditional to the bizarre — one on sale in Lome called "six bougies" is a blue-on-blue print of spark-plugs.

Pagnes are also printed for special occasions. In the Ivory Coast, four designs were produced for the funeral of President Felix Houphouët-Boigny on Feb. 7.

Lome's nanas have a reputation as hugely rich and powerful. "Whenever the nanas benz have kicked up a fuss, the government has given in to them," Mr. Nuttall said.

Massacre reveals 'deception' of Oslo accord

By Martin Woollacott

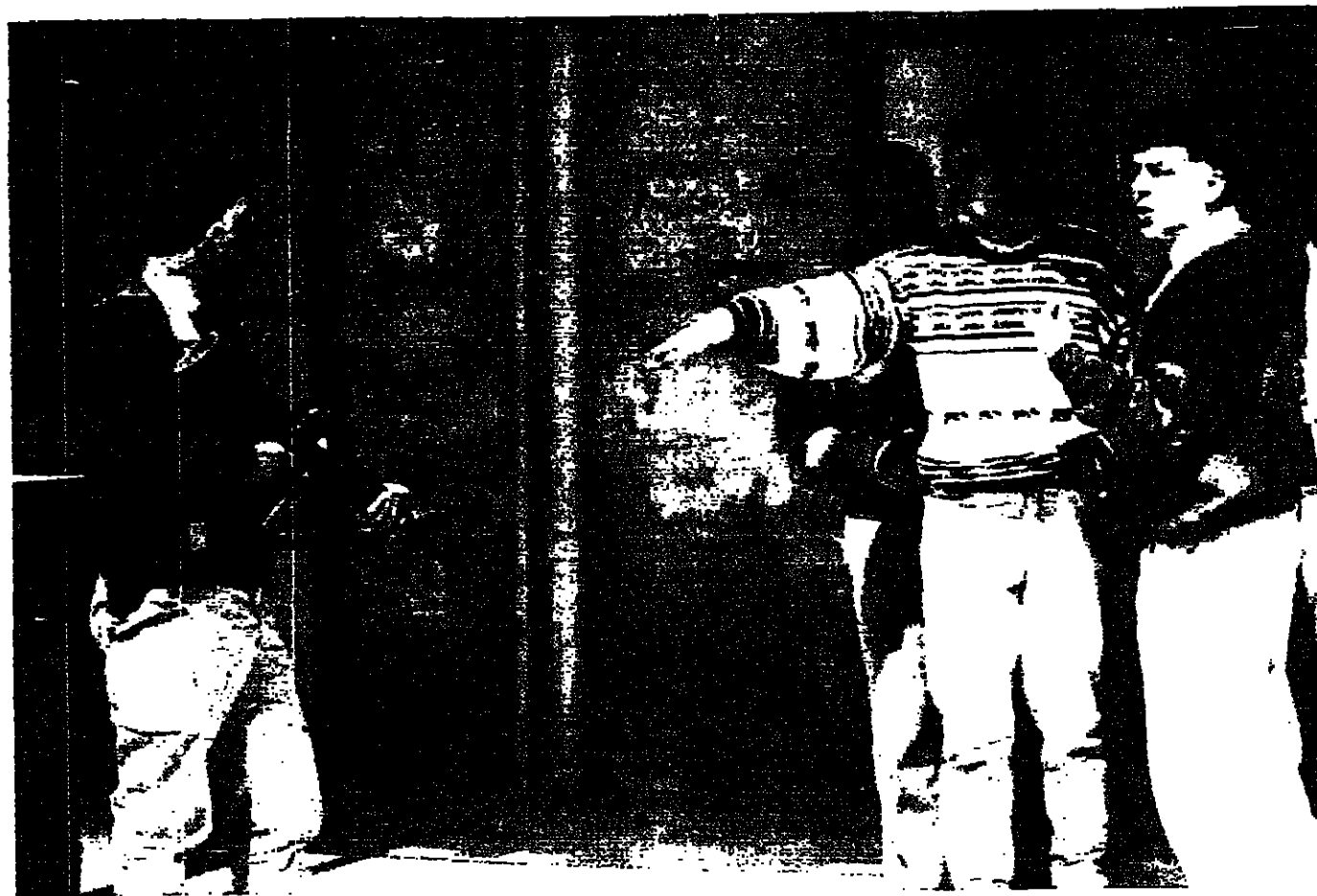
THE HEBRON massacre has brought the complex structure of deception represented by the Oslo agreement between the Israelis and the Palestinians crashing to the ground. The question now is whether the two will unwise decide on an attempt to re-erect the scenery of this discredited play without change, or whether the Israelis, in particular, will have the courage to face up to the real implications of a negotiation for peace.

Before he left for talks with U.S. President Bill Clinton in the United States, Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli prime minister, handed over to Shas, the religious party he wants to include in his coalition, a letter pledging not to divide Jerusalem, not to allow the establishment of a Palestinian state, and not to dismantle the settlements. There could hardly be a clearer example of the Alice in Wonderland world in which the Israeli government wishes to dwell. Mr. Rabin is restating known positions; Shas is requiring him to do so because it suspects him of secretly planning to compromise some of them; meanwhile the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) is not sure whether or not he actually will do so, and, in any case, secret intent is no longer enough for them. No wonder that PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat has been so reluctant to come to terms over the resumption of talks.

It is not only that what the Israelis have so far offered — early discussion of international monitors plus the ban on extremist organisations — is not enough. The Hebron massacre has put a spotlight on the evasions and hypocrisies of both sides.

The Oslo agreement is or was a device for allowing the Israeli government, and to a lesser extent the PLO, to talk about peace without talking about statehood, and to move towards statehood without saying they are doing so. That was earlier regarded as the genius of the arrangement. The two sides were to be enabled to avoid a dangerous confrontation with political opponents and attacks of panic and rage in both communities by blurring the real issues, using riddles and euphemisms, and pushing off all the hard questions into the future.

But Baruch Goldstein blew away more than just a political device with his assault rifle. This is not just a matter of party manoeuvring of diffe-



An Israeli policeman holds his gun against Palestinians in East Jerusalem days after the Hebron massacre (AFP photo)

rent views on the feasibility of peace with the Arabs. Israelis are muddled and divided over the purpose of that country and its proper relationship with the world. It has perhaps always been so, but these problems are now particularly dangerous because they threaten to paralyse decision-making in the Israeli state.

This is a country where strange things have been happening. A country where large numbers of new Jewish immigrants are not Jewish at all. A country where Arab votes may very soon be necessary if there is ever to be a centre-left government again. A country which lives in a world where the fourth largest Israeli — Israeli, not Jewish — city is Los Angeles. A country desperately attached to hard, old things like territory and sovereignty and war-making capacity but also desperate to plug into the global economy, to master the new forms of power. Torn between a simpler past and a more ambiguous present and future, the tendency has been to locate the anxieties over these identity shifts in the peace process itself.

Israel's muddle is especially apparent in the way in which political discussion, and action, is influenced by concepts from the past which operate a sub-rational level. The concepts of dominance and division, for instance, are rarely absent. Ariel Sharon laments the disappearance of the fighting Jew, pointing to a recent panicky retreat by Israeli families in Jaffa at the mere rumour that the local

Rabin, in many of his actual decisions, and in his very body language, one senses the same determination to keep on top. In his case he does not see full-scale continued occupation of the territories as the means of maintaining that advantage, but imagines, perhaps, that some more complicated mixture of policies will enable Israel to keep the initiative. The sense that Israel is about winning,

defeat. Only in Israel would you be referred to the first century when discussing 20th century politics — to the divisions among the Jews that helped the Romans destroy the Jewish state.

Intensely sectarian although Israel is, and made more so politically by its system of proportional representation, there is a horror of the kind of polarisation that might lead to violence by Jews against Jews, or to grave political crisis. Because confrontation with the settlers might lead in that direction, Mr. Rabin remains intensely reluctant to evacuate even the most dangerously situated of the settlements. Assassination attempts, bombs, ambushes dance in people's minds. While violence of that kind could conceivably happen, the anxieties seem to arise more from widespread worries about the loss of cohesion in Israeli society.

Preoccupations of this kind do not make for clear thinking. In their heart of hearts a majority of Israelis may well believe that there is not likely to be a genuine peace

"Mr. Rabin remains intensely reluctant to evacuate even the most dangerously situated of the settlements."

Arabs were on the rampage. A film clip showing an Israeli soldier retreating before a 10-year-old boy attracts his special fury. Benjamin Ben-Gurion, Menachem's son, says that a return to the 1967 borders would be a sign that Israel had lost, that the other side was victorious "through the stone, through the knife, through the Molotov cocktail."

But it is not only on the right that the idea of losing the upper hand is influential. In every statement of Yitzhak

not losing about standing up to enemies rather than submitting to them, runs across the whole political spectrum. Its roots in Jewish history and above all in the Holocaust have been documented. Yet it seems clear that there cannot be a true peace unless Israel can learn to lose, to accept that it has been defeated by the intifada.

The fear of division brought sharply to the surface by the Hebron massacre represents another aspect of the same preoccupation with

whether or not there is a withdrawal from the territories. The question then remains how security is best to be assured, by carrying on with the morally and financially costly business of repressing the Arabs of Gaza and the West Bank or by getting out. Objective opinion points to the latter, which brings with it the chance for peace, and, if not, then better security maintained through Israel's large advantages in conventional military force.

Two weeks after the Hebron massacre a small group of young Israelis made their way to the curfewed town, taking backways and dodging Israeli soldiers to get in. Members of a tiny leftwing organisation called the Committee for Solidarity with Hebron, formed five months before the killings, they took with them money for medicine and food. As on previous trips they were courteously received and their aid accepted with thanks, but on this occasion some of Hebron's Hamas leaders asked them to explain their political position. One of the group gave a speech in Arabic outlining their belief in a wholly secular state for all. The Hamas leaders then in turn outlined their views on an Islamic state, while emphasising that they bore no hostility to Jews as Jews. The two sides parted with expressions of goodwill.

That is an example of the kind of connection still being made in spite of the horror. To suggest that the Goldstein killing, after all the blood shed on both sides, in itself cuts off possibilities for peace must be wrong. This will remain true even if there is a major retaliation by groups on the Palestinian side.

The importance of the massacre for the Israelis ought to be that it offers a chance for an escape from their own stereotypes and from the misleading language in which they conduct the internal argument about peace. It is understandable that Israelis are nostalgic for the old Israel of sacrifice and solidarity, and that they are intensely concerned with the issues of Jewish defeat and Jewish division. It is clear, that the result on the political level is a government that sees itself surrounded by taboos and no-go areas which it does not wish to enter. But unless these questions of identity are coolly separated from the arguments about peace, they will continue to hamper its pursuit and could destroy it altogether.

The Guardian.

Israel, PLO to discuss security

(Continued from page 1)

Mr. Peres said Israel was proposing that a special Palestinian police force be deployed in Hebron. The force would be under Israeli army command, but would have greater authority than Palestinian policemen who served alongside Israeli police in the occupied territories in the past, Mr. Peres said.

"This police force will have a special character... that will take into account the special sensitivities in Hebron," Mr. Peres told Israeli radio.

"Every reasonable suggestion to enhance security in the territories will be accepted by us," Mr. Peres added.

He also hinted that Israel might decide unilaterally, though at a later time, to dismantle some settlements. Such a decision would be made "based on Israeli logic and security needs," not under the pressure of negotiations with the PLO, he said.

"We are asking ourselves out loud how to organise

ourselves, not in order to appease anyone, but to ensure the security of all residents," Mr. Peres said.

"Even if we pour all possible military forces into Hebron, there is no complete security. We have to think about the life of every single man and woman, Jews and Arabs."

He refused comment on Israeli media reports that the 450 Jewish settlers living in six enclaves in Hebron would be moved into one or two sites in the town to reduce friction with the Palestinians.

Once the Israel-PLO talks resume, there could be quick results, he said. "There isn't too much work maybe two or three weeks for the conclusion of the agreement and then a very short time, maybe another two or three weeks, for implementation," he said.

Mr. Peres also had guarded praise for Washington's decision to abstain during the Security Council vote on a section of a resolution referring to parts of Jerusalem as occupied territory.

"There is a change in the

American position, even a little bit to the better," Mr. Peres said on Israeli Radio. "Until now, the United States voted twice to include Jerusalem among the occupied territories."

The abstention came Friday night when the Security Council voted, article by article, on the resolution condemning the Hebron massacre.

The Palestinians expressed concern over the U.S. abstention. "We hope that this abstention is only technical and procedural and not an indication of a change in U.S. policy," Mr. Hussein said in a statement.

It has been the American position that Jerusalem should not be divided again, and that its final status should be determined in negotiations between Israel and the Arabs. Washington has not recognised Israel's annexation of East Jerusalem.

Jerusalem's future is likely to be on the agenda when Israel and the PLO begin negotiations over the final status of the occupied territories in mid-1996.



PROTEST: Activists of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) march through the occupied Gaza Strip late Friday opening fire in the air to protest the Palestine Liberation

Organisation's refusal to quit the 28-month-old U.S.-backed Arab-Israeli peace talks (AFP photo)

Syria: Talks should focus on land

(Continued from page 1)

ment that France had helped ensure the resolution was adopted.

"This resolution... must now be followed by effective measures paving the way for a restart of the dialogue between Israelis and Palestinians," Mr. Duque said.

He said France believed every effort should be made to work towards a "global, fair and durable peace accord in the Middle East."

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher asserted Friday Jordan, Syria and Lebanon will return to the bilateral talks in Washington independent of PLO action and that their decision to do so will give impetus to the PLO to resume their talks.

"We believe that these intensive contacts and discussions will put the peace process back on track," the secretary said.

He said that the United States will confer with Russia, the co-sponsor, about the exact

date for the bilaterals.

The secretary noted that it was important for the United States to support the U.N. Security Council resolution.

Through a voting arrangement, the United States abstained on two paragraphs in the preamble — dealing with the status of Jerusalem and the occupied territories — because "they project sensitive issues in a way that prejudices how those issues may be resolved in the final stages of negotiations."

The secretary added that the United States would have vetoed the resolution if those sensitive paragraphs were contained in the operative part of the resolution.

He restated the U.S. position that the status of Jerusalem must be part of the negotiation process between Israel and the PLO. He said the United States believes that the issue of Jerusalem will be decided in the final stages of negotiations, as stated in their declaration. In any case, he made plain, these issues must

be resolved by the parties and not by outsiders in advance of the negotiations.

Speaking about the U.S. action on the Security Council resolution, he said:

"We needed to send a strong signal to the extremists from any quarter whose objective is to kill the peace process and the hopes it can bring. We must not allow those who oppose peace to prevail."

"It was very important for the United States to support a resolution condemning the massacre at Hebron," he reiterated. "It was necessary for us to do so to maintain our credibility in the negotiations as an honest broker."

"It is important that the action taken by the Security Council not prejudice or pre-judge the negotiations we want to promote," he said that Ambassador Dennis Ross, U.S. coordinator on the Middle East peace talks, will be going to the region in the next few days for additional consultations with the parties.

Jordan awaits consultations

(Continued from page 1)

scribed the resolution, passed late Friday after weeks of haggling, as a "good decision."

He said that the resolution provided positive stipulations protecting the Palestinians in the occupied territories.

Dr. Anani added that Jordan "viewed positively" the resolution's call for accelerating the peace process and reiteration of the applicability of the 1949 Fourth Geneva Convention to the territories occupied by Israel in June 1967 including Jerusalem.

A source in Jordan's delegation to the peace talks said an announcement by U.S. Ambassador Madeline Albright that Jordan, Syria and Lebanon had agreed to resume negotiations with Israel in April "is inaccurate."

The source, who asked for anonymity, said that Jordan's decision to consult with its Arab partners before resuming negotiations "does not mean that Jordan will not return" to the negotiating table in April as was announced by the U.S. envoy.

The Kingdom, along with Syria and Lebanon, "only took a decision to cut short a round of bilateral talks between the heads of the negotiating teams in Washington in February."

The three teams left the U.S. capital three days before the scheduled end of that round. At the time, Jordanian sources said that the negotiators were not expected to return to Washington before April mostly to accommodate religious holidays of the Muslims and Christians in March and early April.

House votes to disband councils

(Continued from page 1)

articles of the 25-article law. In a previous session, the House passed four articles.

The House is to resume its debate of the draft law today in an attempt to finalise and pass it before the end of its ordinary session on March 22.

The House was expected to issue a statement on Friday's American vote on some items in United Nations Security Council Resolution 904 which condemned the Hebron massacre. Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali asked that the issue be discussed in today's session.

Deputy Ali Abu Ragheb, head of the Financial Committee, told the Jordan News

Agency, Petra, that the committee had recommended to the House that it accept the draft sales tax law.

Mr. Abu Ragheb said the committee agreed with the government on the possibility of applying the sales tax law since it "aims at facilitating procedures and reducing administrative costs, easing the burden on citizens and broadening the taxation base to increase self-dependence."

He said that the main amendment to the "raft law was a recommendation that the percentage of the general sales tax be reduced to seven per cent (the government had suggested a minimum of 10 per cent and a maximum of 20 per cent).



Activists of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine burn Israeli flags during a protest in the occupied Gaza Strip late Friday (AFP photo)

BAE unit eager to sell planes to Mideast airlines

MANAMA (R) — Britain's Avro International Aerospace is showing off its RJ70 aircraft to potential Middle Eastern customers, hoping to fill a regional need for light aircraft.

"We see the Middle East entering a new phase of developing regional routes, not just as feeders but to meet the high demand, particularly from businessmen, for frequent, short routes within the region," Avro's Africa and Middle East Vice President John Schofield said.

Avro, set up by British Aerospace PLC (BAE) in 1993, demonstrated its RJ70 light aircraft on Saturday in the Gulf Arab state of Bahrain, home base for the regional carrier Gulf Air.

Mr. Schofield said there was sales potential for about 30 planes in the Middle East. Each RJ70 costs around \$25 million.

"The Gulf is experiencing tremendous growth and we see a need for required services to supplement their fleets," he added.

Avro's public relations manager Terry Taylor said company officials were holding talks with airline officials in Gulf states including Saudi Arabia's flag carrier Saudia. He refused to give any further details but industry sources earlier said that Saudi originally had plans to spend between \$200 and \$300 million on light aircraft for short-haul and domestic flights as part of a major order worth some \$6.2 billion.

Officials from U.S. firms McDonnell Douglas Corp and Boeing Co. are due in Saudi Arabia later this month to discuss prices, financing and delivery schedules after Riyadh said it would buy between 50 and 60 American jets worth \$6 billion.

Iran defers \$5.6b in debt arrears to West

TEHRAN (R) — Iran, its economy badly hit by low oil prices, said it had agreed with four Western countries to defer repayments on \$5.6 billion in debt arrears.

Iranian television said late Friday that Iran signed agreements with Swiss and Austrian officials allowing it to repay a total of \$1 billion in debts owed to companies in the two countries by receiving medium-term credits.

"The \$1 billion credit will cover overdue debts and those due up to March 1995," a television news report said. Iran has also signed similar agreements with Germany and a group of Japanese companies in the last month. Iran's official IRNA news agency said the Japanese credit was worth \$2 billion.

"Taking into account the earlier contracts with Japan and Germany, a total of \$5.6 billion in credits to Iran has been negotiated and agreed upon," the television report said.

African business leaders call for trade summit

ARUSHA, Tanzania (R) — African business leaders called Saturday for a joint government-business summit next year to remove all restrictions to trade within the continent.

"All Africa needs is to create an enabling environment for trade," African Development Bank President Babacar Ndiaye told the annual meeting of the African Business Round Table (ABR) in northern Tanzania.

"We shall do this if the government leaders and business people sit together and find common ground to enhance business and examine their priorities," he added on the last day of the conference.

He called on Zambian President Frederick Chiluba, who with Mozambican President Joaquim Chissano attended the conference, to put the proposal to an Organisation of African Unity summit in Tunis in June.

He told reporters intra-African trade amounted to only two per cent of the global economy and Africans needed to remove finance and trade restrictions and implement radical reforms.

Mr. Chiluba urged Africans late Friday to embrace regional integration swiftly to offset Western economic domination.

He said with the conclusion of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), Africa would suffer a net loss of \$2.6 billion in trade by the year 2006 while Europe, America and Asia would gain significantly.

Business leaders said Africans consumed more than their own indigenous industries could produce and also faced a collapse of prices of primary commodities, growing external debt of about \$270 billion, and declining investment and financial assistance.

They said the solution lay in reforms ending government involvement in often loss-making

state companies, the removal of visa restrictions, restructured tariffs and fewer currency controls.

Conference experts said the business leaders largely skirted the question of conflicts in Africa at their Arusha forum.

Mr. Chiluba said Saturday they could not ignore the fact that Africa suffered from instability ranging from Liberia in the west to Somalia in the east and Sudan in the north to Angola in the south.

He urged African leaders to move fast to help make peace and said African business must be a partner in such an endeavour.

Mr. Ndiaye called on Afri-

cans to implement policies to rescue Africa from its depressed position in the global economy and help curb chronic poverty and a deterioration of facilities.

Experts said 35 African countries had implemented radical economic reforms at the behest of international donors and in those states where changes were implemented fully, impressive rates of growth in markets and investment had been reached.

About 300 business leaders from Cape Town to Cairo as well as senior government delegations attended the ABR meeting.

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Airlines speed partnerships across Atlantic

LONDON (AP) — The era of trans-Atlantic airline alliances took two big steps forward in less than 24 hours.

A new aviation agreement between the United States and Germany will give United Airlines and Lufthansa German Airlines the largest combined route system in the world, while British Airways retained its right to keep putting passengers onto USAIR domestic

flights in America through a "code-sharing" arrangement.

The big losers were American Airlines and Delta Air Lines, which fought both deals.

"It's another example of the U.S. government caving into foreign pressure," said American's London-based spokeswoman, Lizann Peppard.

Among U.S. carriers, American and Delta offer the most

flights across the Atlantic — but they can expect to lose passengers to the competition as rivals marry up and combine services.

It remains unclear how all this jockeying in the skies will affect ordinary travelers. Better flight connections could be one benefit. But people hoping for cheaper fares probably shouldn't hold their breath.

The United and Lufthansa

deal got the go-ahead as Germany and the United States came to terms Friday on a new aviation treaty.

The British Airways-USAIR partnership was extended Thursday evening by U.S. Transportation Secretary Federico Pena. Mr. Pena had previously said he wanted a new aviation treaty with Britain in place before granting such an extension, but he angered American and Delta by backing off from this demand.

The main feature of the partnerships, as in an earlier deal between Northwest Airlines and KLM Royal Dutch Airlines, is the practice of code-sharing. The airline partners list connecting flights under one code number in computer reservations systems, which enables them to get more bookings.

This is because travelers believe they are going on one airline, viewed by most people

as the best way to fly because connections should be smoother and their luggage is less likely to be lost.

For example, United's deal with Lufthansa will allow those carriers to promote direct flights from dozens of U.S. cities to Warsaw, a service that neither could offer by itself. United will pick up people somewhere in its vast U.S. route network and Lufthansa will drop them off in Poland after they have changed planes in Frankfurt.

"We see code-sharing as being a marketing innovation that is going to make carriers more effective and provide consumers with broader-ranging route networks," said Cyril Murphy, United's vice president for international and governmental affairs, in a telephone interview Friday from Washington.

But will consumers really benefit?

Dollar expected to strengthen against European currencies

This report is submitted by Naser Nabulsi, private client group, Merrill Lynch-Dubai

Overview

Fundamental view: The dollar has been weakened in recent weeks by a sharp rise in European and Japanese bond yields relative to the U.S. and by ongoing U.S.-Japan trade frictions. We continue to expect the dollar to strengthen against European currencies in coming quarters as interest rates decline in Europe. But we have moderated our 12-month target for the DM/USD rate from 1.85 to 1.80 in view of better-than-expected wage moderation in Germany that will help restore German competitiveness. Prospects for large current account surpluses to persist suggest that yen strength will continue and perhaps intensify over the coming year. We maintain our six-month target of JPY/USD 100 and our 12-month target of JPY/USD 95.

Technical view: After a solid week during the first week in March, the U.S. dollar index spent last week on the defensive. The greenback lost ground against four of the six currencies we most regularly monitor, most notably the Deutschmark and the Swiss franc. As a result, the index fell 1.3% for the week. This decline was a reflection of the weak medium term trend, since short term momentum is viewed as near oversold.

We are of the view that the current decline is serving to correct the September-January rally. This suggests that the weakness will be fairly well contained. However, medium term momentum remains weak and, if last week's low of 93.62 is broken, further weakness to the 92.80 area would not be surprising. Although important resistance still exists at 97.50-98.00, there is now interim resistance at 94.90-95.80.

Japanese yen

Fundamental view: The yen has weakened marginally in recent weeks to the JPY/USD 105.8 level in response to evidence of robust U.S. growth and signs that Japan is moving to reduce trade frictions. Although U.S. officials have avoided talking the yen up, many market participants have concluded that the administration favours yen appreciation as a way of cutting Japan's trade surplus. Despite Japan's agreement to allow greater U.S. access to its cellular phone market, U.S. Trade Representative Mickey Kantor testified to Congress that trade tension is likely to persist for some time.

Interest rate developments also appear to be lending support to the yen. 10-year government bond yields have risen to 1% and futures markets are now discounting a tightening of Japanese monetary policy over the next year. Data pointing to a strong rebound in Japanese industrial production in

February and March suggest that further monetary easing is likely to be delayed for some time.

We expect renewed economic weakness to lead to a 0.5% rate cut in late April or May. Persistent current account surpluses should keep upward pressure on the yen. Even if Japan agrees to some market access measures for U.S. companies, we still expect the current account surplus of nearly \$120 billion this year. That should help the yen to continue to trade in the JPY/USD 100-to-110 range for most of this year and we expect it to reach a level as high as JPY/USD 95 by this time next year.

Technical view: The Japanese yen rallied 0.4% against the U.S. dollar last week. Sentiment indicators are still no worse than neutral. Short term momentum remains downwardly biased, but is not yet oversold. At the same time, medium term oscillators remain constructive and have the potential to remain so well into April.

As a result, we are inclined to view any further weakness as temporary and think that a challenge of the recent highs is still likely. In that regard, a rally much through 101 JPY/USD would allow for at least 98. Benchmark support remains 113-114, but intervening support at 105-106 and 109-110 will likely be more important reference points in coming weeks.

Deutschmark

Fundamental view: Despite further modest easing by the Bundesbank, the dollar remains under pressure against the Deutschmark at the DM/USD 1.69 level. The dollar's lackluster performance against the DM may reflect the attraction of higher bond yields in Germany and perceptions that Bundesbank easing will remain extremely cautious. Although Germany's GDP declined at a 2.8% annual rate in the fourth quarter, M-3 money growth remains well above the Bundesbank's target range of 6%. The figure was distorted by special factors, but underlying money growth is still running around 7%, which could contribute to further caution. But easing. With U.S. growth of 7.5% in the fourth quarter, another round of monetary tightening is expected in coming weeks in the U.S.

We do not expect another cut in Germany's discount rate until May or June, but despite the recent money growth shock, the Bundesbank is still likely to start trimming its repo rate soon. The outlook for inflation to moderate further looks excellent, especially given recent wage agreements which will keep wage growth well under 2%.

We continue to look for German 3-month money rates to fall to close to 4.0% by early 1995 compared with 5.60% currently. We maintain our 12-month target of DM/USD 1.80, and expect the dollar to reach the DM/USD 1.75 level in 3 months.

Technical view: The Deutschmark gained 2.1% versus the

U.S. dollar during the week ended March 11, making it the strongest currency of the six we most regularly discuss. Medium term sentiment is deteriorating and is neutral. Short term momentum has been constructive, but did not confirm last week's strength, generating a negative divergence. However, medium term oscillators remain quite constructive and may well remain so until at least late April.

All of this suggests that, even though the dominant long term trend remains down, the immediate pressures in coming weeks should still be to the upside — possible short term weakness notwithstanding. Further strength through last week's high of 1.679 DM/USD would allow for 1.65-1.66. The former resistance at 1.694-1.704 is now support. The mark/yen cross spent most of last week above 62. While short term momentum is pointing up, medium term oscillators remain down. The 62.50-63.00 range is both chart and momentum resistance, so a rally through that benchmark would be significant. A break below 59 would at least nominally set the stage for 55.

Pound sterling

Fundamental view: The British pound fell sharply against the Deutschmark this week to DM/GBP 2.52, weighed down by speculation about a near-term interest rate cut to mitigate the impact of April 1 tax hikes. The pound is now 10 pence below its recent early-January peak versus the DM. Recent data indicate weakness in retail sales and consumer sentiment, but surprising strength in the labour market should help to maintain consumer confidence.

We expect the pound to rise to DM/GBP 2.70 in 12 months as short-term DM interest rates fall by 160 basis points compared to little or no fall in sterling rates. The pound continues to trade at US\$GBP 1.49. We expect the pound to depreciate to U.S.\$/GBP 1.46 in 12 months as short-term dollar interest rise modestly.

Technical view: The British pound gained 0.7% versus the U.S. dollar last week. Sentiment remains near oversold, but short term momentum is still topky. Medium term oscillators have lacked definition in recent weeks, but now appear to be picking up steam. Nonetheless, our parameters remain unchanged.

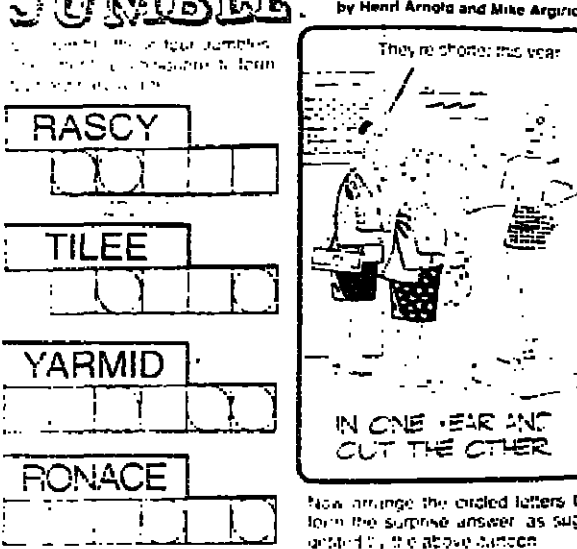
A decisive breakdown from the trading range (\$1.46 U.S./GBP) would allow for at least a test of the 1993 low near \$1.43 and possibly long term support at \$1.40-\$1.42. The current area of \$1.50-\$1.51 is viewed as first resistance. A rally through second resistance at \$1.55 would set the stage for a challenge of the long term benchmark at \$1.60. The DM cross-rate dropped to a new 1994 low last week, supported by medium term momentum oscillators. Support is at 2.50-2.51. Resistance has been lowered to 2.56-2.57.

THE BETTER HALF By Harris



"My cardiologist is concerned. It seems an old girlfriend turned my heart to stone back in high school!"

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME By Henri Arnold and Mike Argison



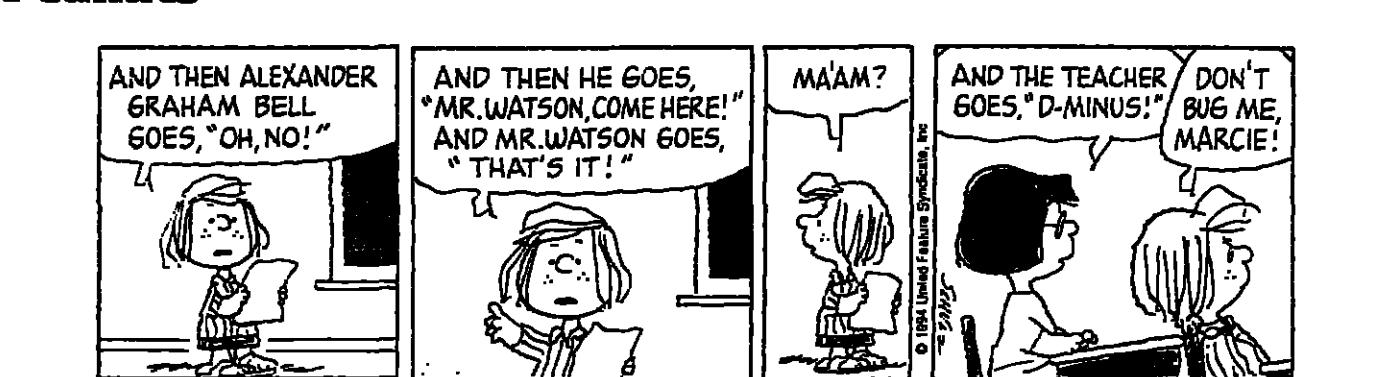
Print answer here: _____

Answers tomorrow!

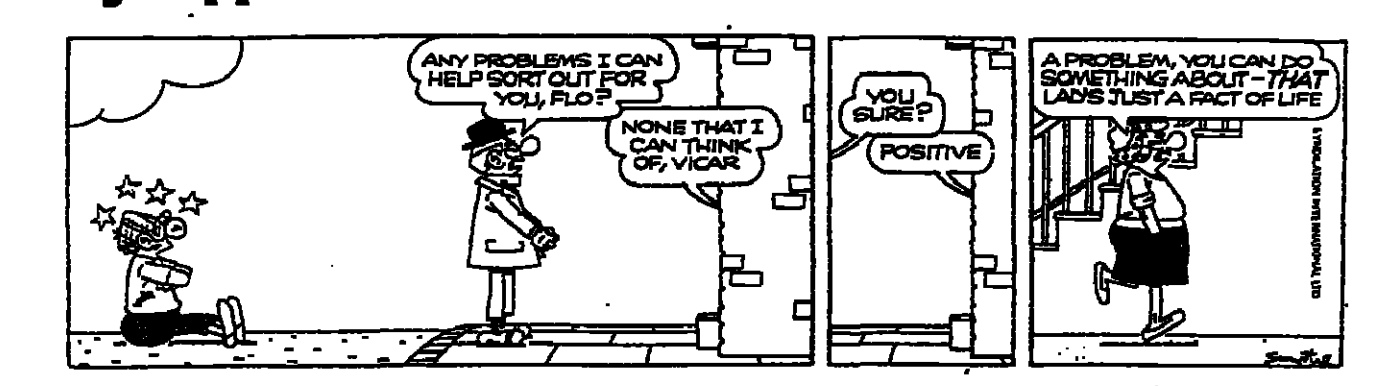
Jumbles: BISHA, CANAL, BUOYED, POLATE, TIRELESS

Answer: TIRELESS

Peanuts



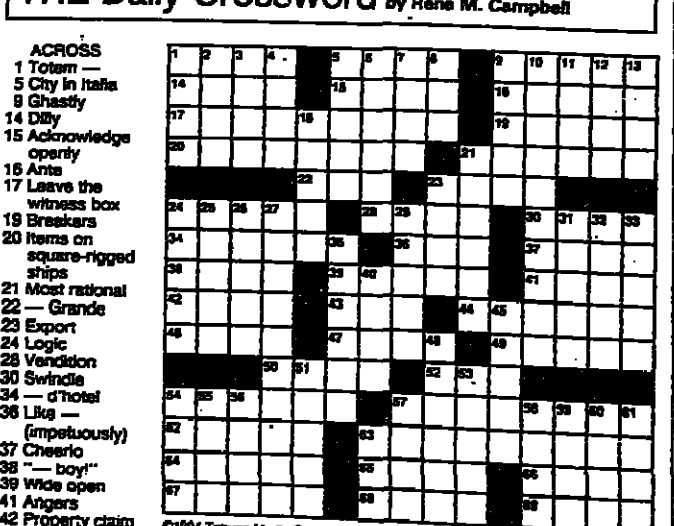
Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



THE Daily Crossword by Rene M. Campbell



Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

DOWN: 1. BIRD, 2. BIRD, 3. BIRD, 4. BIRD, 5. BIRD, 6. BIRD, 7. BIRD, 8. BIRD, 9. BIRD, 10. BIRD, 11. BIRD, 12. BIRD, 13. BIRD, 14. BIRD, 15. BIRD, 16. BIRD, 17. BIRD, 18. BIRD, 19. BIRD, 20. BIRD, 21. BIRD, 22. BIRD, 23. BIRD, 24. BIRD, 25. BIRD, 26. BIRD, 27. BIRD, 28. BIRD, 29. BIRD, 30. BIRD, 31. BIRD, 32. BIRD, 33. BIRD, 34. BIRD, 35. BIRD, 36. BIRD, 37. BIRD, 38. BIRD, 39. BIRD, 40. BIRD, 41. BIRD, 42. BIRD, 43. BIRD, 44. BIRD, 45. BIRD, 46. BIRD, 47. BIRD, 48. BIRD, 49. BIRD, 50. BIRD, 51. BIRD, 52. BIRD, 53. BIRD, 54. BIRD, 55. BIRD, 56. BIRD, 57. BIRD, 58. BIRD, 59. BIRD, 60. BIRD, 61. BIRD, 62. BIRD, 63. BIRD, 64. BIRD, 65. BIRD, 66. BIRD, 67. BIRD, 68. BIRD, 69. BIRD, 70. BIRD, 71. BIRD, 72. BIRD, 73. BIRD, 74. BIRD, 75. BIRD, 76. BIRD, 77. BIRD, 78. BIRD, 79. BIRD, 80. BIRD, 81. BIRD, 82. BIRD, 83. BIRD, 84. BIRD, 85. BIRD, 86. BIRD, 87. BIRD, 88. BIRD, 89. BIRD, 90. BIRD, 91. BIRD, 92. BIRD, 93. BIRD, 94. BIRD, 95. BIRD, 96. BIRD, 97. BIRD, 98. BIRD, 99. BIRD, 100. BIRD

Inter-Korean talks collapse

SEOUL (R) — North Korea, warning that confrontation could lead to war, walked out of a meeting with South Korea Saturday aimed at ending the dispute over the North's suspected nuclear weapons programme.

The walkout makes cancellation of U.S.-North Korean talks scheduled for Monday almost certain, and efforts to impose international sanctions on the Stalinist regime more likely.

"North Korea said that Seoul was not very far from here and that it could be in flames," South Korea's chief delegate Song Young-Dae told reporters after the meeting at the border hamlet of Panmunjom.

"Confrontations can spread to war. We are prepared to answer back with talks for talks or with war for war," Mr. Song quoted the North Koreans as saying.

Mr. Song said it was the first time the North had talked of war during the border meetings.

The officials did not set a date for their next meeting. "By the walkout, North Korea ignored our and international efforts for dialogue... There is no excuse for their actions," South Korean Unification Minister Lee Yung-Dug said in a statement.

"Unlike our efforts for the exchange of special envoys, North Korea kept delaying

talks and in the end threatened a war and unilaterally refused the talks," he said.

Mr. Lee said the South still wanted to solve the nuclear issue peacefully. "We urge North Korea to come forward in a positive way to quickly resolve the issue."

The two sides had met to resume talks on a proposed exchange of envoys to discuss the North's suspected nuclear arms programme. The North Koreans walked out after 55 minutes.

The United States had made the exchange of envoys one of its conditions for resuming talks with the North.

Northern officials at the talks, according to a Southern account, demanded that the South stop trying to halt the talks with its "negative" attitude. They accused it of trying to hinder the third round of talks between Pyongyang and Washington scheduled for Monday in Geneva.

The North also demanded that the two Koreas issue a "joint statement expressing the will to realise the envoy exchange" before an agreement was signed.

South Korea for its part demanded that the North change its attitude and start discussing details of the exchange of envoys instead of introducing unrelated issues.

At four previous rounds of border talks, North Korea said

the South must abandon plans to deploy U.S. Patriot missiles and called for its president, Kim Young-Sam, to retract his statement accusing the North of developing atomic weapons.

U.S. intelligence chiefs fear Pyongyang could already have a crude nuclear bomb. North Korea says its nuclear programme is peaceful.

Inspectors from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) returned from a two-week tour of nuclear sites in North Korea Tuesday but said they could not verify compliance with the nuclear non-proliferation treaty which Pyongyang has signed.

North Korea said Friday the inspectors' complaints were "utterly unjustifiable" and threatened to respond to any further pressure with "a resolute measure."

President Bill Clinton said Friday he may resume "Team Spirit" military exercises with South Korea and send the Patriot anti-missile missiles there unless the North satisfies the U.N. inspection team.

Secretary of State Warren Christopher, asked at a news conference about resuming the exercises, said he would wait for the outcome of the border talks before any final decision.

He told a U.S. television programme it was up to North Korea to defuse the situation. "There is an impasse tonight but the choice is North

Korea's," Mr. Christopher said.

"They can comply with the inspections."

"They can enter into talks with South Korea and really join the family of nations. In which case there's a real possibility we'd be glad to have a third round of talks and welcome them into a more normal relationship."

"If they want to go the other way, clearly the International Atomic Energy Agency will refer the matter back to the United Nations and the question will have to be: What kind of sanctions?" he said.

There was no immediate reaction from Washington Saturday to the breakdown of the border talks.

China has restated its objection to any United Nations sanctions against North Korea aimed at forcing it to open its nuclear plants for international inspection.

"It's an international rule now to solve all issues through dialogue," Zhang Tingyan, ambassador to South Korea, said in an interview carried Saturday by the domestic Yonhap News Agency.

"Why should the North Korean nuclear problem be an exception? China cannot agree to sanctions or any other stringent measures."

"Such measures are not only ineffective, they would only complicate matters, aggravate the situation," Mr. Zhang said.

ANC wants purge of S. African police

JOHANNESBURG (R) — The ANC Saturday demanded a purge of all policemen found involved in running guns to its Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party rival and other dirty tricks to undermine South Africa's transition to democracy.

Appeals Court Judge Richard Goldstone said he had evidence that the deputy police commissioner, General Basie Smit, was among those involved.

"This is just a tip of an iceberg. The ANC believes a lot of people are still involved in such dirty tricks. Urgent action must be taken to weed out all those involved," said African National Congress spokesman Carl Niehaus.

The judge told a news conference Friday that fast action was needed to avoid further destabilisation before the republic's first all-race election on April 26 to 28. The ANC is expected to win comfortably.

Most of the actions listed by Judge Goldstone, including the supply of weapons and the fuelling of violence on trains and in migrant worker hostels, were directed at helping Inkatha which has said it is boycotting the election.

President F.W. de Klerk said Gen. Smit, Police Intelligence Chief Major-General Krappies Engelbrecht, Lieutenant-General Johan Le Roux and other officers were being put on compulsory leave following the Goldstone report.

He also ordered an investigation by the multi-party Transitional Executive Council (TEC).

Mr. de Klerk said: "I would like to highlight that the report emphasises that we are dealing with the possibility of a relatively small group of people. It would be more than grossly unfair to say that the entire police force is involved."

He added that nothing in the report substantiated "third force" allegations by Nelson Mandela's ANC.

But Mr. Niehaus said those implicated were not just a "few rogue elements."



Supreme Court Judge Richard Goldstone (right) and South African President F.W. de Klerk hold a joint press conference in Pretoria. Three police generals and a number of high-ranking policemen are strongly implicated in gun-running and violence aimed at torpedoing South Africa's first all-race election next month, a commission into political violence said (AFP photo)

"If the deputy commissioner of police is involved in such tricks, then there is something seriously wrong somewhere. This matter will not be left to rest even after the election. A new government will have to cut it to the bone," he said.

Inkatha leader chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi said he was not aware that senior members of his party had received guns from top generals.

Zac De Beer, leader of the Liberal Democratic Party said: "Evidence has been mounting for many years that the National Party ran a corrupt administration. I think it is time for all voters to understand that De Klerk's party is grubby, disreputable organisation."

Political analysts said De Klerk and his colleagues had been naive in publicly saying they trusted the generals.

Judge Goldstone was appointed by the government to investigate the causes of political violence which has killed about 15,000 people in four years of apartheid reform.

ANC and Inkatha rivalry has been blamed for most of the deaths.

The Goldstone report said an experienced officer, identified only as "Q", made the allegations to investigators.

He said the three generals and a group from a police base, Vlakplaas, had until 18 months ago been involved in making homemade guns.

Q said Gen. Smit and Gen. Engelbrecht initiated the gun project with the support of Inkatha leaders to orchestrate violence. This also involved weapons training for Inkatha members.

People involved included a Colonel Eugene De Kock, officers from Durban and volatile townships east of Johannesburg, and the then-commissioner of police in Buthelezi's Kwazulu homeland, General Jac Buchner.

Inkatha said Col. De Kock for the arms, the report said. Meanwhile, Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe urged Zulu leaders Saturday from declaring a sovereign state in South Africa, saying the move would lead to disaster.

Addressing an Organisation of African Unity (OAU) meeting on political developments in South Africa, Mr. Mugabe said Zulu Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi and his Inkatha Freedom Party must "pluck their courage and resolve" to take part in the country's first all-race elections next month.

A tulip blooms in the White House

WASHINGTON (AP) — Ah, the little extras that come with life in the White House. The embassy of the Netherlands announced Friday that it would name a new tulip variety after first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton. Mrs. Clinton will "christen" the new 'Hillary Clinton's' tulip at a special ceremony at the Netherlands residence.

Tuesday, the embassy said in a statement. "It sounds like a lot of fun and an honour," said Neel Lattimore, a spokesman for the first lady. The ceremony is part of festivities marking the 400th anniversary of the first flowering tulips in the Netherlands. More than 11,000 tulips will be on display at the residence.

U.S. bars Cuban dancers from Hollywood event

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States has rejected entry visa requests for two Cuban dancers invited to perform at the motion picture Academy Awards ceremony Monday night in Los Angeles. State Department officials said Friday. They said the government generally does not allow professional entertainers from Cuba to perform in the United States because of the U.S. embargo. Even if the dancers performed free of charge, their appearance would contribute to their "reputation, marketability and future earnings," all grounds for rejection of visa requests, the officials said. The Cuban dancers prevented from attending are Lianz Chang Olaya, a Chinese Cuban, and Maria Del Rosario Suarez. The officials said that visas were granted for Cuba's most famous ballerina, Alicia Alonso, and a representative of a ballet magazine. Alonso will attend the ceremony as an observer. Cuba's was one of eight national dance companies invited to send representatives to perform at Monday's event.

Pope warns of voodoo risk in Haiti

VATICAN CITY (R) — Pope John Paul has called on the Haiti's bishops to reject voodoo and to avoid mixing the cult with Catholicism. About 80 per cent of Haitians are Roman Catholic but most also believe in voodoo, a creed based on communication with spirits while believers are in a trance. "It would be dangerous if it (voodoo) favoured the worst kind of nationalism," the Pope said in a speech to bishops from Haiti. The Western hemisphere's poorest nation. He warned the bishops that voodoo should not allow the creed to overrun the island's heritage. Voodoo has been tightly enmeshed with Haiti's turbulent politics since former dictator Francois "Papa Doc" Duvalier set up the feared Tonton Macoute militia in the late 1950s. "A dominant current runs through Haiti's population which sometimes tends to reduce Haitian culture to the dimensions of voodoo," the Pope said. The Pope called on the bishops to stay away from mixing voodoo with Catholicism. "A clear stand is needed to avoid the danger of confusion."

13 boys shave their heads for ailing friend

OCEANSIDE, California (AP) — In Mr. Alter's fifth-grade class, it's impossible to tell which boy is undergoing chemotherapy. Nearly all the boys are bald. Thirteen of them shaved their heads so a sick buddy wouldn't feel out of place. "If everybody has their head shaved, sometimes people don't know who's who. They don't know who has cancer, and who just shaved their head," said 11-year-old Scott Sebelius, one of the baldies at Lake elementary school. For the record, Ian O'Gorman is the sick one. Doctors recently removed a malignant tumour from his small intestine, and a week ago he started chemotherapy to treat the disease, called lymphoma. "Besides nose, I had tubers on my stomach," said Ian, who'll have eight more weeks of chemotherapy in an effort to keep the cancer from returning. Ian decided to get his head shaved before all his hair fell out in clumps. To his surprise, his friends wanted to join him in a move reminiscent of the 1992 U.S. Olympic volleyball players, who shaved their heads in a show of solidarity with a bald teammate. The last thing he would want is to not fit in, to be made fun of, so we just wanted to make him feel better and not left out," said 10-year-old Kyle Hansink.

Hosokawa arrives in China

BEIJING (R) — Japanese Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa arrived in Beijing Saturday to seek China's help in ending the impasse about North Korea's nuclear inspections.

Mr. Hosokawa launched immediately into a quick tour of Beijing, sightseeing at the old imperial Forbidden City and a new subway stop before an official welcome hosted by Premier Li Peng at the Great Hall of the People.

While Japanese officials say the main thrust of Mr. Hosokawa's visit will be to encourage economic cooperation, they also say Tokyo hopes to see a broader Chinese role in the intractable dispute over North Korea's nuclear intentions.

Tensions jumped again this week after inspectors from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) left North Korea saying they had been unable to verify Pyongyang's repeated statements that it is not building nuclear bombs.

U.S. President Bill Clinton said Friday he might decide to resume military exercises with Seoul and send Patriot missiles there if North Korea does not satisfy IAEA requirements.

Border talks between North and South Korea on the nuclear issue broke down Saturday when Northern officials walked out. Washington is now almost certain to cancel a scheduled meeting with Pyongyang Monday.

A Japanese official, speaking in Beijing before Hosokawa's arrival, said Tokyo was eager to see if China might be prompted to take a more active stance.

"If North Korea goes nuclear, South Korea might be frustrated and strong opinion might form there to develop their own nuclear weapons, then people in Japan will say, why not Japan?" the official said.

"We think it worthwhile to ask China to put more pressure on North Korea."

China has said publicly it does not want to mediate in the dispute. Its ambassador to South Korea, Zhang Tingyan, restated that stance in an interview on the South Korean news agency Yonhap Saturday.

"It's an international rule now to solve all issues through dialogue," Mr. Zhang said. "Why should the North Korean nuclear problem be an exception? China cannot agree to sanctions or any other stringent measures."

"Such measures are not only ineffective, they would only complicate matters, aggravate the situation," Mr. Zhang added.

Beijing is now one of the few international allies left for North Korea's hardline leader Kim Il-Sung. South Korean President Kim Young-Sam is due to visit China next week.

Japanese officials said Mr. Hosokawa was likely to take a soft approach with Beijing on the North Korea issue as well as on human rights. And would not make any overt links to fresh loans.

Serbs renew demands for joining Bosnia deal

SARAJEVO (R) — Bosnian Serb leaders are renewing calls for joining efforts for an overall settlement of the Bosnian conflict embracing all three sides in the wake of a Croat-Muslim peace deal.

The ink was hardly dry on a Croat-Muslim agreement signed in Washington Friday when Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic said international trade sanctions against rump-Yugoslavia must be lifted for the Serbs to make peace in Bosnia.

"We... are ready to sign a peace agreement at any time but we expect that all three sides would be treated equally, which includes the issue of the lifting of the sanctions," the Belgrade-based news agency Tanjug quoted Mr. Karadzic as saying.

A senior Karadzic aide, Momcilo Krajcinic, echoed Serb calls for "equal treatment" Saturday, saying a recent Serb offer to open the airport of the besieged Muslim enclave of Tuzla was conditional on the presence of Serb officials, along with Russian observers, there.

"Tuzla Airport must have the same treatment as Sarajevo Airport, which is on the Serb side yet is controlled by Muslim officers," he said.

Mr. Karadzic announced after talks in Moscow earlier this month that Serb forces would allow Tuzla Airport — closed since the beginning of the Bosnian war — to open provided

Russian monitors and a Serb team made sure relief flights did not carry weapons.

The United Nations imposed tough trade sanctions almost two years ago on rump Yugoslavia — made up of the former Yugoslav republics of Serbia and Montenegro — for its backing of ethnic Serbs in the Bosnian war.

Banning all trade with Yugoslavia and freezing its assets abroad, the sanctions were meant to persuade Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic to stop supporting his Bosnian kin and help work towards a settlement in Bosnia.

But even as Croatia and Muslims signed their federation pact in Washington, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said sanctions should remain in place until there were peace settlements both in Bosnia and the Serb-occupied Krajina region of Croatia.

Serbo-Croat talks on the Krajina region, a flashpoint of tension in former Yugoslavia, are scheduled to begin under Russian sponsorship in the Croatian capital of Zagreb next Tuesday.

Agreement to discuss the issue stemmed from shuttle diplomacy by Russian special envoy Vitaly Churkin, whose peace efforts have been coordinated with the United States.

Mr. Churkin will be hosting the talks at the Russian embassy in Zagreb.

Berlusconi hits back at mafia accusations

ROME (R) — Media millionaire Silvio Berlusconi hit back Saturday at suggestions that the right-wing alliance he leads into this month's Italian election is backed by the mafia.

"These vulgar lies are just a cheap electoral ploy," his spokesman told reporters as Mr. Berlusconi prepared to hit the campaign trail in the mafia stronghold of Sicily.

Interior Minister Nicola Mancino had warned Friday the mafia would be a force in the March 27/28 election and added: "They say that in Sicily their tendency will be to support (Berlusconi's) Forza Italia."

More accusations came from Mr. Berlusconi's leading rival Achille Occhetto, who said Forza Italia (Go Italy) was also receiving mafia help in the southern Calabria region.

Forza Italia was leading Mr. Occhetto's leftist alliance by a narrow margin when opinion polls ended last week. But political analysts say the outcome of the election is too close to call.

Mr. Berlusconi's spokesman Antonio Tajani challenged the interior minister to put up or shut up.

"If Mancino has evidence to back his charges, then he should come out with it," he said.

Troops report losses as Cambodian army clams up

TRENG COMMUNE, Cambodia (R) — Cambodian government forces battling for hills around an important guerrilla-held town imposed a news blackout on their operations Saturday, but returning troops spoke of losses.

"I am under strict orders not to release any information about the situation at Pailin," one general said at the 5th Military Region Headquarters at Battambang, the provincial capital.

The army has refused to allow reporters to visit the front near the Khmer Rouge-held town and has set up a checkpoint at Treng, 30 kilometres east of the town to prevent access.

A Western diplomat in Phnom Penh said embassy contacts had also been refused access and Defence Ministry officials had declined to give details of the army operations.

A government official said King Norodom Sihanouk, who earlier appealed against any fighting, had warning of the dangers of an attack on Pailin, largely deserted but well defended by Khmer Rouge artillery in surrounding hills.

Soldiers returning from the front said they were prevented from occupying Pailin until the hills were secured.

They said fighting was continuing and the government army was taking casualties. No precise figures were available.

Soldiers and officials said army units backed by tanks and rocket-firing helicopters began attacking guerrilla posi-



Cambodian government tanks line up on Route 10, some 10 km from Khmer Rouge stronghold of Pailin, waiting for orders for the final assault.

Troops have since advanced to within 4 km, according to some sources, and expect the final assault within days (AFP photo)

tions in the hills Thursday afternoon.

Soldiers described frontline conditions as very hard. Food and water were short, landmines in abundance and the region rife with malaria.

A doctor at Battambang Hospital said about 40 soldiers had been treated this week, half of them for landmine injuries. The diplomat said he had reports of some 80 government casualties since it began advancing on Pailin last month.

The diplomat said Defence

Ministry officials had tried to stress that the army's operations were not offensive.

"I think that's because they are worried about the king's displeasure and there could be some dissension about how to proceed. It also gives them a way out if things don't work out as intended," he said.

Soldiers said there was concern the Khmer Rouge might attempt to lure government forces into a trap at Pailin by letting them take the town then counter-attacking in force to recapture it as they did recent-

ly at their northern stronghold of Anlong Veng.

"The Khmer Rouge are using the same strategy as they used in Anlong Veng," said Colonel Yuth Sany, based in the town of Bavel to the northeast of Pailin. "They have pulled out their main strength, but when the town is occupied they will launch their main attack."

The government has assembled a force of some 7,000 men backed by tanks, helicopters and multiple rocket launchers for the campaign on the town lost to the Maoist Khmer

Rouge in 1989.

Bounded by rugged, heavily wooded hills, Pailin is the centre of one of South East Asia's richest gem mining districts.

Mining is the guerrillas' main source of income, bringing in millions of dollars a month.

The Khmer Rouge has warned that any attack on Pailin would result in a resounding defeat for the government.

The diplomat said he thought it would be dangerous militarily for the government to try and take the town as it would be vulnerable to attack and difficult to hold.

Capturing it would be a largely symbolic victory, he said.

In Bavel, officers said they had been ordered to act as a blocking force against any diversionary Khmer Rouge attacks.

Asked if the capture of Pailin would be the end for the Khmer Rouge guerrillas, Colonel Sany replied: "It will not mean we will have destroyed the Khmer Rouge and that the war would end but it will weaken them and help destroy their morale."

He said the guerrillas in Bavel district were laying new minefields and attacking outlying villages.

More than 1,000 families have been forced from their homes in Ampil Pram Daeum Commune 12 kilometres west of Bavel since Khmer Rouge guerrillas launched attacks on Feb. 25.

Pistons, Bulls, Hornets, Hawks win thrillers

PHOENIX, Arizona (R) — It was one of those nights in the NBA Friday when game after game goes down to the final seconds.

In Phoenix, Joe Dumars hit a 15-foot jumper with 3.6 seconds left to cap a 30-point performance and lift the Detroit Pistons to a 114-113 victory over the Suns.

After Dumars' shot, Phoenix could not capitalise on a chance to win when Kevin Johnson drove the lane and, under heavy pressure from Terry Mills, missed a layup.

The lowly Pistons (18-46) showed signs of turning into giant killers as they improved to 3-0 on a current four-game road trip, including a victory at league-best Seattle Tuesday.

Charles Barkley scored a game-high 31 points and grabbed 12 rebounds for the Suns (41-22).

In Chicago, Scottie Pippen scored 22 points, including a free throw with 40 seconds left that put Chicago up for good, and Steve Kerr made two free throws with 8.7 seconds to go as the Bulls beat the Seattle SuperSonics 87-84.

Seattle had two chances to tie but Kendall Gill, who had a game-high 23 points, and Gary Payton missed 3-pointers.

The Sonics, the only team that has clinched a playoff berth, dropped to 46-17.

The Bulls won for the fifth time in their last six games.

In Charlotte, Alonzo Mourning scored 21 points and blocked Karl Malone's potential game-tying shot in the final seconds as the Hornets overcame a first quarter in which they scored just eight points to defeat the Utah Jazz 82-73.

Hersey Hawkins added 18 points for the Hornets, who have won three straight and five of their last six.

Malone scored 21 points and snared 13 rebounds for the Jazz, who have lost three of their last four after a 10-game winning streak.

At Indiana, Danny Manning's slam dunk with 27 points to go helped the Atlanta Hawks snap the Pacers' 11-game home winning streak, 81-78.

The win moved the Hawks into a tie with the idle New York Knicks for the best record in the Eastern Conference at 44-19.

In Philadelphia, Isiah Rider hit two free throws with 21.7 seconds left in the fourth quarter to give the Minnesota Timberwolves a 100-98 victory over the 76ers, snapping a 14-game road losing streak.

Stacey King scored a season-high 20 points and grabbed a career-high 16 rebounds for Minnesota, which posted its first road win since Jan. 12 at Dallas.

The Wolves have won just two of their last 11 games, both victories coming against Philadelphia in the last five days.

In Orlando, Shaquille O'Neal 38 points and 15 rebounds powered the Magic past the Cleveland Cavaliers 113-96.

Dennis Scott added 28 for the Magic, who won their second in a row. John Williams scored 21 for the Cavaliers, who have dropped four straight following an 11-game winning streak.

At Los Angeles, Derrick Coleman had 25 points and 11 rebounds and Johnny Newman had nine points in a key 18-7 second-quarter run, lifting the New Jersey Nets to a 102-90 victory over the Lakers.

The Nets, who also got 21 points and 11 assists from Kenny Anderson, remained 4½ games in front of Charlotte in the race for the final Eastern Conference playoff berth.

In Denver, Mitch Richmond scored 29 points and the Sacramento Kings took control early — 30-17 after the first quarter — en route to a 115-103 win over the Nuggets.

In Portland, Clyde Drexler scored six of his 28 points in a 14-0 run late in the third quarter as the Trail Blazers beat the Washington Bullets 122-104.

Rod Strickland added 28 points and seven assists for the Blazers, who snapped a four-game losing streak.

Tom Gugliotta had 32 points, nine rebounds, and nine assists for Washington, which lost its fourth straight.

Faisali maintains comfortable lead as Wihdat advances to second place

By Aileen Bannayan

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — With only five weeks left in the Kingdom's first division soccer championship, the only certain fact seems to be Al Faisali's undisputed 43 point lead atop the 12 team standings. The rest of the teams are vying either for an advanced position or trying to run away from the dim prospect of relegation in the case of the last four teams.

Although Al Faisali were held to a goalless draw against Al Qadissieh, they managed to keep a 12-point lead and are very close to retaining the title they have won in seven of the past 13 seasons.

Both teams had valid scoring chances in the second half of the match but Al Qadissieh's Mustafa Adam and Mazen Shahin, and Al Faisali's Jiryes Tadros were unsuccessful. Al Faisali thus continued their unbeaten record while Al Qadissieh continued their remarkable second leg record of three wins and two draws which has enabled them to maintain 6th place for now.

Former champions Al Wihdat jumped to second place after a 2-2 draw against 8th-placed Al Arabi.

With most of their veterans now back on the team after settling a row with the club's board of directors, Al Wihdat's defence with continuous attacks from the outset of the match.

Talal Rabaiah and Marwan Al Shamali stunned Al Arabi when they scored two consecutive goals in the 33rd and 35th minutes.

Al Arabi's Ahmad Subh managed to score a goal in the 45th minute, ending the first half 2-1.

As Al Wihdat concentrated on defence, Al Arabi did not give up and substitute Mohammad Alawneh equalised in the 87th minute.

In another match, Al Ramtha moved from 5th to 4th place after defeating

Sahab 2-0.

Al Ramtha needed the win not only to improve their standing, but to give their fans and players a moral boost after disappointing 4-2 and 3-1 defeats against Al Baqaa and Yarmouk.

Al Ramtha demonstrated their determination to win when striker Mouaffaq Abu Hdeib attacked Sahab's goal but was tackled and awarded a penalty shot from which he scored the first goal in the first minute.

Although Sahab's Mohammad Al Ashhab and Mohammad Sabra put up a big effort, they seemed to lack accuracy, while Al Ramtha's veteran Rateb Al Daoud was instrumental in assisting his teammates to score their second goal in the 47th minute.

As lowly teams Al Yarmouk, Sahab, Fuheis, and Al Jazireh struggle to avoid relegation, their results in the upcoming weeks will be of utmost importance.

Fuheis' latest 4-2 win over Al Yarmouk might prove to be a crucial victory. They are now in 10th place and will next face Sahab.

Wa'ed Suweis gave Fuheis an early lead when he netted in the first goal in the 12th minute as Al Yarmouk's goal post prevented two definite chances.

Al Yarmouk equalised by Abdul Fattah Al Abbadi in

the 26th minute, but Fuheis again took the lead when Imad Mfrej scored in the 50th minute.

Khadar Mubarak assisted Sweis in scoring Fuheis' third goal in the 79th minute as they took a 3-1 lead before Yarmouk's striker Khaled Yousef blasted a powerful shot from outside the penalty zone in the 87th minute.

Mubarak scored Fuheis' fourth goal in the final minute of the match concluding his team's much needed win.

Al Ahli, the team that surprised most fans by holding on to 2nd place throughout most of the competition, this week dropped to third place after a 0-0 draw with Al Baqaa.

The result must surely have disappointed Al Ahli who have lost their form in the second leg of the competition losing 3-1 to Al Qadissieh, 2-0 to Al Faisali and 2-1 to Al Jazireh.

On the other hand, Al Baqaa seem to be on a comeback trail and have maintained a good record during the second leg.

They lately beat Al Fuheis 2-0, Al Ramtha 4-2, Al Arabi 1-0 and drew with Al Wihdat 1-1.

Nine matches are scheduled during the 18th week of the competition which will include three matches postponed because of weather conditions.

Standings after 17th week

Team	P	W	D	GD	L	GF	GA	Pts
Faisali*	16	13	1	2	—	38	8	43
Wihdat*	16	7	4	2	3	17	13	31
Ahli	17	7	4	1	5	23	17	30
Ramtha	17	8	2	1	6	28	21	29
Husseini*	15	6	4	2	3	22	13	28
Qadissieh*	16	5	4	3	4	22	17	26
Baqaa	17	6	2	2	7	16	25	24
Arabi	17	4	5	—	8	20	32	22
Jazireh*	16	3	6	—	7	19	22	21
Fuheis	17	5	1	1	10	14	29	18
Sahab	17	3	3	2	9	15	24	17
Yarmouk	17	5	—	2	10	18	31	17

* Teams with postponed matches.

Harding begins life as convicted felon

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) —

Tonya Harding got her mug shots and fingerprints taken at a downtown jail Friday to begin her life as a convicted felon.

"She was very quiet and demure when she came in," said Jeff Snyder, a Multnomah County community corrections supervisor. "This is a rather traumatic process for somebody to get into."

"This is the walking through the gate into the real world of being on probation."

In a deal with prosecutors,

Harding, 23, pleaded guilty Wednesday to conspiracy to hinder prosecution in the attack on rival figure skater Nancy Kerrigan. Harding will serve no jail sentence but was placed on three years-probation.

That probation officially began Friday when she met with corrections officials. The case immediately was reassigned to Clackamas County, where Harding recently moved.

"She'll be calling her probation officer by early next week," said Ingrid Lewis, supervisor of community corrections in Clackamas County. "They'll schedule an appointment."

Normally, a person such as Harding would meet with her probation officer about once a month for the first 90 days, but she could be required to do so more often because of the relative complexity of her case, Lewis said.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Kenya enter Kirui in world championships

NAIROBI (R) — World 5,000 metres champion Ismael Kirui of Kenya has been entered in the Budapest world cross country championships next Saturday as an individual, officials said Saturday. They said Kirui was entered after he apologised to the Kenya Amateur Athletics Association (KAAA) Friday for arriving home a week later than scheduled after running in San Vitoro, Italy. KAAA Chairman Isiah Kiplagat said Tecla Loruppe, fourth in the women's 10,000 metres at the Stuttgart World Championships, had apologised Saturday for also overstaying in Europe and the KAAA was considering whether to send her to Budapest. "It (her apology) might be too late," said Kiplagat, adding that Kenya's team was unchanged as Kirui was going as an individual. Both runners were dropped from the Kenyan team for Budapest earlier this week.

Enza sailing at record breaking pace

LONDON (R) — Enza New Zealand continued to sail at record-breaking pace Friday in its bid to break the non-stop round-the-world record of 79 days and six hours. With just 18 days and little more than 4000 miles to the finish line in Brest, co-skippers Peter Blake (NZ) and Robin Knox-Johnston (GBR) had opened up a lead of 558 miles over French rivals Lyonnaise des Eaux-Dumex. The next few days will be critical, however, as both enter the doldrums and navigate their way through areas of no wind. "Our advantage over Lyonnaise has been increased from 90 miles in 19 hours," said Blake.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNIA HIRSCH

WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

- Q.1—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠A56 ♣A4 ♠AKJ9
Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with one club. What action do you take?
- Q.2—East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠9 ♣Q6 ♠Q1053 ♠AKQ86
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
What do you bid now?
- Q.3—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠Q76 ♣QJ9765 OK ♠J72
Partner opens the bidding with one spade. What do you respond?
- Q.4—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AK7652 ♣K102 ♠A106
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
What do you bid now?
- Q.5—East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠32 ♣Q9765 ♠Q865 ♠K6
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
3 ♠ Pass 7
What action do you take?
- Q.6—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠KJ9843 ♣102 ♠AK4 ♠A10
Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with one diamond. What action do you take?

Sampras, Agassi to meet in final of Lipton Championships

BISCAYNE, Fla. (AP) — Pete Sampras mixed aces, baseline winners, cross-court volleys and overheads. Jim Courier hit one forehand after another.

Diversity carried the day. Agassi. Barely.

Sampras outlasted his childhood friend and longtime rival in a dramatic 18-minute tiebreaker Friday to win 6-4, 7-6 (12-10) in the semifinals of the Lipton Championships.

The top-ranked defending champion, Sampras overcame three set points in the tiebreaker and beat Courier for the fourth consecutive time.

"I didn't think either of us played that great," Sampras said. "I got lucky. That's the bottom line."

But Sampras also showed a complete arsenal of shots. Less lethal with his serve than usual, he was forced to win points from the baseline, where Courier prefers to play.

"I don't mind trading groundstrokes with anyone," Sampras said.

That is one reason he's 22-2 this year, the best start of his career. He'll seek his fourth tournament title this year in Sunday's final against Andre Agassi, who advanced by beating Australian Patrick Rafter 6-2, 6-4.

Sampras is attempting to become the first player to win consecutive men's singles titles at Lipton. He has split eight previous matches against Agassi.

"We've had some pretty entertaining match in the past," Agassi said. "It's explosive tennis when we play."

In the women's final Saturday, top-ranked Steffi Graf, winner of 31 straight matches,

was to meet Natalia Zvereva, 0-13 lifetime against Graf.

The fifth-ranked Courier was eager for an upset, but came up short on too many key points.

"We were both a little tight, especially in the tiebreaker," Sampras said. "We knew what was at stake."

"Overall, I didn't think either one of us played anywhere near our best," Courier said. "But it was a good competitive match. It made for some good exciting tennis for people to watch."

Even bad shots caused a stir. Courier, angry about a line call, slammed a service return against chair umpire Dana Loconto's armrest.

An accident, Courier later said with a smile.

"I'm not that good aiming a 120-MPH (190 KPH) serve that I could hit him," Courier said.

The most entertaining point was the final one of the first set. Sampras and Courier traded 38 strokes, with at least three hitting a line. Sampras finally charged to the net, intercepted Courier's floater and put it away to clinch the service break and the set.

"I made a couple of bad decisions in that game that cost me," Courier said. "But that last point was a good point. I have no problem with that one."

Courier missed several chances in the tiebreaker. With Sampras serving at 5-6, Courier returned a second serve into the net. Serving at 7-6, Courier hit a forehand wide.

Sampras, meanwhile, squandered two match points. But he delivered an ace — his 11th



Pete Sampras

— for an 11-10 lead, and earned the victory when Courier hit a forehand into the net.

"I'm winning a lot of matches not playing well, like I did today," Sampras said. "That is maybe the difference between Pete Sampras today and a couple of years ago."

Courier last won a tournament in August, when he was ranked no. 1. Now he's no. 5 and still reluctant to hit backhands or volleys.

More trips to the net might help, Sampras said. But Courier denies any temptation to tamper with his tactics.

"I think my record will show that I know what I'm doing," he said. "I'm on the right track."

"I think I bottomed out at Indian Wells (two weeks ago). Mentally I'm the best I've been in a long time as far as having a clear picture of how I want to play the game and how I need to play and what I have to do to get ready for the biggest tournaments coming up."

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	Jean-Claude Van Damme HARD TARGET		Adel Emam in TERRORIST		CONCORD '1' DEMOLITION MAN Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 CONCORD '2' DENNIS THE MENACE Shows: 12:30, 3:45, 6:00, 8:15, 10:15		Opening Soon A political comedy Forbidden X Forbidden	presents a play entitled: Al Iim Nuron A popular political comedy Actors: Aberr Issa, Daoud Jalajel, Hassan Al Shaer, Fuad Shomali in addition to other comedians Every night at 8:15 Tickets are sold all day Coming soon: The next play	Since the actors are abroad the theatre is closed It will re-open on April 6, 1994 for two weeks in the last performances of: "Arab Summit Conference"

NEWS IN BRIEF

Saudi ambassador returned to Beirut

BEIRUT (AP) — Ahmad Koheimi, Saudi Arabia's first ambassador to Lebanon in 10 years, arrived Saturday to take up his post in Beirut. "I am happy to be in Lebanon, the oasis of Arab brotherhood and coexistence," Mr. Koheimi said in an arrival statement at Beirut airport. Mr. Koheimi served as ambassador to Lebanon in the late 1970s after the outbreak of the civil war. He was later transferred to Damascus. Saudi Arabia closed its embassy in Beirut after it was ransacked and burned in 1984 by extremists protesting restrictions on the number of pilgrims allowed to travel to Mecca. Saudi Arabia's King Fahd agreed last summer to reopen the embassy in response to a plea from Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri.

Ugandans said to deny Israel arms link

KAMPALA (R) — Ugandan officials were quoted on Saturday as denying all knowledge of Israeli weapons on a plane stranded in Cyprus. Uganda had bought no arms for a year. Cypriot authorities insisted the consignment was bought by the Ugandan government but diplomats said there were suspicions it might be destined for elsewhere in Africa. The government-run New Vision daily newspaper quoted a foreign ministry official as saying: "Uganda has no diplomatic, political or economic relations with Israel and therefore we have nothing to fear." It also quoted a Defence Ministry official as saying Uganda had not bought any arms for the past year. Neither of the officials were named and the foreign ministry and defence ministry were not immediately available to comment.

Lebanon says Pope plans to visit

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon's information minister said on Saturday he had no indication that Pope John Paul wants to cancel his visit after bomb blasts in Christian districts. Michel Samaha appealed to Muslims and Christians who oppose the visit to take a positive attitude towards it. "We have received no indications since the security incidents other than that the Pope insists on visiting Lebanon," Mr. Samaha told Voice of Lebanon radio. "I want to appeal to all the Lebanese who have doubts about this visit. I want to appeal to the Lebanese who belong to the same spiritual family as the Pope and are not able to see the importance of the visit, to look on it as a blessing," Mr. Samaha said.

Indian Supreme Court lifts ban on Muslim group

NEW DELHI (AP) — India's supreme court has struck down a ban on the nation's biggest Islamic group, which was outlawed after Hindu-Muslim riots in 1992. The government had failed to justify the ban on the Jamaat-e-Islami Hind, justices P.B. Sawant and S. Mohan said in their order Friday. The ban violated constitutional guarantees to political action, Saturday's editions of the Times of India newspaper quoted the judges as saying.

China, Israel to cooperate in aircraft work

BEIJING (AP) — Israel's Rada Electronic Industries signed an agreement Saturday to set up an aircraft maintenance firm with a Chinese partner, the official Xinhua news agency reported. Rada's partner in the joint venture, to be called Beijing Tira Aircraft Components Services Co., will be the Beijing Tianzhu Forestry Development Co. Rada will provide 80 per cent of the \$13 million investment for the joint venture, which will be located near the Beijing airport and cover 4,600 square metres. It will import four sets of Rada's Smart Cats automatic test equipment for use in testing and maintaining plane avionics. The new firm also will provide after-sale services and services-related technical consultations in aviation maintenance, Xinhua said.

Kuwait rejects some meat as un-Islamic

KUWAIT (R) — Foreign meat suppliers are flouting rules on Islamic slaughtering and Kuwaiti shops will ban their products unless they conform, a merchant said on Saturday. Mubarak Rashid Al Haifi, deputy director of the cooperative societies' union, said a union delegation found on a recent tour of producer countries that their methods of slaughtering chicken and cattle violated Islamic law. The team found only one country had a proper Islamic slaughterhouse, said Mr. Haifi, quoted by the official Kuwait News Agency (KUNA). He did not name the countries but said he would do so if they do not change their ways, the agency said. Mr. Haifi said an unidentified Gulf country was importing horse meat from China and treating it and reexporting it to some countries, among them Kuwait, as beef products, he said.

Student pilot killed in Tripoli crash

CAIRO (AP) — A student pilot was killed Saturday in the crash of a Canadian-built passenger plane on a training flight near Tripoli, Libya's official news agency reported. The plane, a De Havilland Twin Otter, went down at Ben Ghazir, a suburb near Tripoli international airport. The aircraft commander was critically wounded, JANA said. The report monitored in Cairo did not say whether the plane was military or civilian and identified neither the pilot nor the commander. It indicated they were the plane's only occupants, but some versions of the aircraft carry around 30 people.

Indian attacks on rise — Pakistan

RAWALPINDI (R) — Indian forces fighting a separatist revolt in Kashmir have increasingly violated a ceasefire line dividing the disputed Himalayan region, a Pakistani army spokesman said on Saturday. He told reporters that the Indian attacks across the United Nations-monitored line targeted mainly civilians. "Every day three to four casualties take place," said Major-General Khalid Bashir, who put the total of killed and wounded on the Pakistani side at between 500 and 600 over six months. He said Pakistan had no plan to evacuate civilians from the border, which has been tense throughout the four-year-long revolt by Muslims seeking independence or union with Pakistan.

U.N. move fails to impress

(Continued from page 1)

ren Christopher said that a return to the negotiations by Jordan, Lebanon and Syria would be "a strong impetus to the PLO to return and will make it considerably easier for the PLO to return."

An Israeli government delegation was expected to meet with the PLO leadership Sunday and present it with an Israeli government proposal on concrete steps to break the deadlock in peace talks.

"We expect the Israeli delegation to present us with the same proposal that was given to them in the past," said Shimon Peres — a proposal which is not acceptable to us," said the Executive Committee member.

The proposal presented to Mr. Hussein contained the following points, according to PLO sources in Tunis:

— The merger of five separate settlements within the city of Hebron into a larger one which would house the 450 Jewish settlers in the city in a closed-off sector in the Hadrut area of Hebron.

— An increased presence of Red Cross officials as a concession so PLO request for an international armed presence in Hebron.

— Members of a 1,000-strong Palestinian police force — which existed before the intifada — be recalled to work alongside and under the auspices of Israeli police to assure greater security for the Palestinian population in Hebron.

Opposed to the agreements reached so far by the PLO and Israel said a return to the negotiating table by the PLO at this time would endanger Palestinian unity and would further isolate Mr. Arafat among his people.

Envoys present credentials

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday received the credentials of three newly-appointed ambassadors to the Kingdom. The three were (left to right) Wesley William Egan of the U.S., Bernard Bajalat of France and Oh Chong Il of South Korea. The ceremony was attended by Royal Court Chief Sharif Zaid Ben Shaker, the King's political advisor Marwan Al Qassem and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Al Hassan.



Higher Education Ministry to be replaced by council

AMMAN (Petra) — The government plans to eliminate the Ministry of Higher Education and introduce new legislation aimed at promoting higher education through the auspices of a higher education council. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Higher Education Saeed Al Tal said Saturday.

Under the plan, the council would be entrusted with "steering and directing" the higher education policies, setting up institutes of higher education and guidelines and provide supervision over the institutions of higher education operated by the private sector.

Dr. Tal told a press conference. The proposed council will group presidents of boards of trustees of state-owned universities as well as the ministers of education and planning along with distinguished educationalists in addition to representatives of private universities, he said.

Related legislation, along with two others concerning the higher education system in Jordan, have been referred to the legislation bureau to be studied before they can be endorsed, the minister announced.

The draft laws deal with an

amendment to the present universities law and an applied sciences university. The proposed amendment to the higher education law aims at creating boards of trustees for every state-owned university to draw up policies and supervise their respective institutions' functions, he said.

The draft law on an applied science university covers matters related to supervising and managing higher education outside the university like community colleges run by the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Health and others, Dr. Tal said.

'Pro-Israeli group behind Jounieh blast'

BEIRUT (AP) — Security forces have smashed a ring of pro-Israeli Christian fanatics and arrested four members in connection with a church bombing that killed 10 worshippers three weeks ago, newspapers reported Saturday.

The reports said authorities were searching for two more cell members implicated in the Feb. 27 bombing of a Maronite Catholic church north of Beirut in which 60 people also were wounded.

Government and judicial authorities declined to comment on the reports, which appeared in four leading papers. The independent dailies Al Nahar and Al Hayat said the ring had links to activists in Israel's self-styled "security zone" in South Lebanon. The papers did not elaborate, or provide a source for their identical reports.

But the conservative Al Diyar and the pro-Syrian Al Sharq said the six ring members belonged to the Cedar Guards, a right-wing Christian militia outlawed after the end of Lebanon's civil war in 1990.

Al Sharq said "important personalities" also have been implicated in the church explosion and that their names have been circulated at land border checkpoints, ports and airports to prevent their escape. It mentioned no names.

The church explosion triggered the worst rash of bombing scares since the end of the civil war. It also jolted government efforts to dispel the terrorist image Lebanon acquired during the civil war and encourage foreign investment for rebuilding the country.

Scores of people have been arrested in army sweeps in the past three weeks. On Saturday, the army command announced that two offices of the Lebanese Forces were stormed in Jounieh, 20 kilometres north of Beirut.

The Lebanese Forces militia was the Christians' main fighting machine during the civil war. Like rival Muslim groups,

it was disbanded in 1991 but continued to operate as a political party.

The group is headed by one-time warlord Samir Geagea, whose headquarters in the Christian heartland have been under siege since shortly after the church bombing.

The Cedar Guards, established by Maronite Catholic zealot Eden Saqr after the start of civil strife in 1975, quickly grew into a force of about 400 men. They were trained, armed and funded by Israel, the main backer of the right-wing Christians in the war against an alliance of Muslims and Palestinians.

However, in recent years, followers of Saqr's anti-Arab and anti-Muslim fanaticism dwindled as Christians tilted towards more pragmatic leaders.

Mr. Saqr, who goes by the codename of Abu Arz, the Cedar's father, fled to South Lebanon's security zone after the end of the war.

He was sentenced in absentia by a Beirut court on Feb. 24 to seven years at hard labour for "collaboration" with Israel. Three days after his conviction, the church of Notre Dame de la Delivrance in Jounieh was bombed.

Lebanese authorities have implicated Israel, contending it masterminded the bombing to deflate an international uproar over the Feb. 25 massacre of Palestinian worshippers by a Jewish settler at a mosque in the West Bank town of Hebron.

Police disclosed Friday that a number of suspects had been arrested and charged in connection with the church bombing as part of a plot to rekindle the sectarian strife.

Mr. Saqr opposes a Christian-Muslim reconciliation charter that ended the nation's civil war on the basis of a power-sharing formula that stripped the Christians of the supremacy they had enjoyed since independence in 1943.

prevented him from meeting with Mr. Peres in Cairo or Tunis as suggested by U.S. officials.

The bottom line for returning to the talks was "concrete steps by Israel to show that it is serious about stemming the tide of Israeli violence against Palestinians," said Saleh Raftat, a Jordan-based representative of PLO Executive Committee member Yasser Abed Rabbo's FIDA party.

"With people dying every day at Israeli hands, a visible change must occur for the PLO to have the people's mandate to continue talking to the Israelis," said Mr. Arafat.

One disgruntled Fatah official mediated: "Yasser Arafat

Algerian military could split — paper

ALGIERS (AP) — The government's plans to talk peace with Muslim militants could cause a dangerous split among army ranks, an independent newspaper said Saturday.

Meanwhile, another journalist was killed after a militant faction again threatened foreigners and reporters, and rejected any talks with the army-backed government.

President Liamine Zeroul, an army general, said Friday that he would open talks the following week to seek an end to a two-year-old insurgency that has killed at least 3,800 people.

Previous talks with the opposition failed when the government excluded the militants. In the wake of a major prison breakout and continuing violence, Mr. Zeroul said the talks this time would be "without exclusion."

"There are many, among the military hierarchy, middle-level officers and the troops who do not share that idea of pursuing the dialogue," wrote editor Omar Belhouichet in Al Watan, a generally well-informed daily.

Mr. Belhouichet said he saw "a major risk of total destabilisation in the country." He also criticised "the inexplicable resignation of the state since the advent of Zeroul."

There have been unconfirmed reports that Mr. Zeroul is negotiating secretly to draw the banned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) into some sort of transitional coalition government.

Mr. Zeroul was named to head the army-backed government at the end of January after talks with the opposition collapsed. Since then, violence has persisted, culminating in an attack by militants on a prison March 10, freeing hundreds of inmates.

Guns entered the Algiers area home of Yahia Djamel Benzaghout on Saturday and killed him, a hospital of Benzaghout, 52, who was a friend of Prime Minister Redha Malek. He was the 12th journalist slain since May last year.

The slaying came less than 24 hours after the Armed Islamic Group threatened new attacks on journalists and foreigners. The group said in a message that it "opposes any dialogue, reconciliation or truce" with the government.

Overnight Friday, militants burned an 11-car train 60 kilometres east of Algiers after forcing the 300 passengers to get out, security forces said Saturday. It was the second train burned in nine days.

A spokesman for the Algerian-based Mujahedeen-e-Khalq said by telephone from Baghdad that the group's military forces attacked the Zolfiqar division of the Islamic Republic Guards Corps early Saturday, but gave no details of casualties.

The group said its forces killed and injured more than 500 Revolutionary Guards in three separate attacks on Iranian military bases near the border with Iraq Friday.

In a statement faxed to news agencies on Friday, the group said six of its own combatants were killed in the operations.

The group said its forces paralysed an oil pumping station at Muslan, on the border with Iraq, and inflicted heavy damage to oil pipelines in the Bayat region south of Dehloran Friday.

The Mujahedeen claims, which often are exaggerated, could not be independently confirmed, Iran's state media

Baghdad media hit U.S. over sanctions

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraqi newspapers condemned the formal renewal of U.N. sanctions against their country on Saturday, portraying the United States as the enforcer of an embargo the world no longer wants.

"Now it is clear that the renewal of the blockade every two months can no longer be a solely American decision," the official Al Jumhuriya newspaper said in a front-page editorial.

It said the Security Council's dithering of efforts to hammer out a new form of words for the formal document renewing the sanctions was a diplomatic defeat for the United States and its principal ally, Britain (see page 2).

Baghdad's military daily declared that lifting the U.N. sanctions is a "matter of life or death" for the country, as thousands of Iraqis protested for the third straight day against the renewal of the crippling trade embargo.

"It is the Iraqi's right to do what their political leadership decides will achieve the aim of lifting the embargo by all available means and reevaluate all the positions which lead to the continuance of the embargo," the Al Qadisiyah daily said in an editorial.

The newspaper, published by the Defence Ministry, said: "The question of sanctions has become a matter of life or death for the Iraqi people."

It did not spell out whether "all available means" would involve military action.

But in recent days, Iraq's media have become increasingly strident in its condemnation of the embargo, imposed after Iraq invaded Kuwait in August 1990, and confrontational in demands that it should be lifted.

The Babil daily said Saturday that "the battle of Iraq" is underway and that "lifting the siege means aborting... the embargo" against Iraq's 18 million people.

President Saddam Hussein was quoted by Iraqi newspapers last Sunday as saying that if Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz, currently in New York lobbying the United Nations to end the embargo, fails in his mission, "the Iraqi people and their leadership have no choice but to decide on the course that will give them hope."

Addressing the "evil-minded people" the United States and its allies — he declared: "The fate of the criminal is an eye

for an eye and a tooth for a tooth."

There was no elaboration and no clear threat. But those remarks and other official statements underline the growing impatience and frustration in Baghdad with the United Nations' refusal to lift the sanctions.

Diplomats believe that Iraq may have decided that there is little benefit in going along with U.N. demands after bowing to pressure to dismantle its weapons of mass destruction and to allow long-term monitoring of its military and civilian industries with no sign that the embargo will even be eased.

What direction that anger will take is not yet clear. The influential Babel, published by President Saddam's eldest son, Uday, called the Security Council split over a statement on Iraq a "memo" to the United States.

"This memo told America that it must consider the interests of all the permanent members of the Security Council. Otherwise one or more of those members could cause problems for the United States within international organisations," the paper said.

There has been no formal reaction to the decision from the Iraqi government. Local correspondents said they did not expect one until Mr. Aziz had returned from talks at the U.N. in New York.

Few Iraqis had expected sanctions would be lifted as a result of Wednesday's deliberations at the U.N. but the lack of any definite time-frame offering the possibility of a future easing of the embargo has disappointed ordinary people.

"We want to see a light at the end of the tunnel. That's all we want to see," a civil servant who did not want to be named told Reuters.

Saturday's street protests in Baghdad were apparently organised by the regime. More than 7,000 Iraqis gathered in the Karradah district of eastern Baghdad to protest the sanctions. They chanted slogans praising President Saddam.

"Lift the unjust sanctions imposed by the evil America," read one banner carried by the protesters who also waved Iraqi flags and life-size portraits of President Saddam.

The noisy demonstration dispersed peacefully after two hours.

Iran rebel group claims hundreds killed in attacks

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Iran's main opposition group claimed Saturday it killed and injured hundreds of Iranian troops and crippled oil installations in a string of operations near the Iraqi border to mark the Iranian new year.

A spokesman for the Iraq-based Mujahedeen-e-Khalq said by telephone from Baghdad that the group's military forces attacked the Zolfiqar division of the Islamic Republic Guards Corps early Saturday, but gave no details of casualties.

The group said its forces killed and injured more than 500 Revolutionary Guards in three separate attacks on Iranian military bases near the border with Iraq Friday.

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The Mujahedeen claims, which often are exaggerated, could not be independently confirmed, Iran's state media

carried no reports of unrest or clashes.

Iranian officials said last week that security was being tightened nationwide for the new year which starts March 21. Celebrations usually last a week.

The Mujahedeen said its free killed "scores of Iranian troops" Thursday in clashes with a Revolutionary Guards division in Khorramabad, in western Lorestan province.

Its statement carried a detailed list of smaller attacks, including the laying of mines and booby-traps in the cities of Isfahan, Mashhad, Lahijan, Tehran, Hamadan, Amol and Sari, since the beginning of March.

The group said its members had also attacked "logistical and tactical bases" belonging to the Iranian 14th guards division and the Imam-Reza 21st brigade.

Six members of the Mujahedeen died in the attacks, it said.

A spokesman for the group said the attacks were carried out by its members working from within Iran and did not involve any fighters belonging to its self-styled National Liberation Army based in Iraq.

He said the offensive was the largest mounted by the group since last June.

COLUMN

'Fergie' may stay married to Andrew

LONDON (R) — Sarah Ferguson, the lively duchess who fell out with Britain's royal family, has hinted she has no plans to divorce her estranged husband Prince Andrew despite being legally free to do so from Saturday. Buckingham Palace tersely announced two years ago Saturday that the red-headed Duchess of York's marriage to the second son of Queen Elizabeth had failed and the couple were separating. But "Fergie", still wearing her ruby engagement ring and gold wedding band, was shown on television Friday smiling at an interviewer who addressed her as Sarah Ferguson and said firmly: "I'm married — I'm the Duchess of York." Under British law a spouse can get a no-fuss divorce after two years of separation but friends say the duke and duchess are still on good terms despite the collapse of their 1986 marriage, which had followed a romance that captivated British royalists. They said the couple were keen to stay together for the sake of their daughter Princess Beatrice, now five, and Princess Eugenie, who will be four on March 23 — but reconciliation was not on the cards. Though still seen in public together, usually with their children, their lives have gone in very different directions. Prince Andrew, 34, himself a minor embarrassment to his family in his swinging bachelor days when he was nicknamed "Randy Andy", is quietly pursuing his career as a Royal Navy lieutenant. He has kept his silence since the separation while his wife, a few months his elder, has admitted to making "huge mistakes" and said she had felt stifled by the rebound royal court. The prince was said to be devastated by the departure of his wife who has described him as a lovable man who was just unable to understand her unhappiness.

Magazine says Diana looks 'dead common'

LONDON (AP) — Princess Diana tried to become a private person this year — but the public spotlight won't budge. This week, it's fixated on her clothes after a society magazine said she looked "dead common." The 32-year-old princess handed ammunition to the fashion snipers by turning up Tuesday in an eye-catching jacket, tie and belt decorated with gold elephants to see her newborn nephew, heir to her brother Earl Spencer. The headline-making fashion debate goes to the heart of the class system in Britain — where you are what you wear. The princess has a very aristocratic pedigree but lacks taste, according to Tatler, a glossy society magazine. "The Princess of Wales has dismissed her bodyguards, relinquished her public duties and, so it would appear, mislaid her style advisers," the magazine said. Then it unleashed the ultimate fashion insult, accusing Princess Diana of dressing like a woman from suburban Essex County, reputed habitat of the tasteless nouveau-riche. In Britain, everyone recognises the Essex girl: She trots around on high heels in slinky dresses or perfectly coordinated outfits, with lots of chunky gold jewelry and bouffant hair. Upper-class English girls, in contrast, buy expensive clothes — and then make them look as though you have spent only £2.50 (\$3.75) on them," former Tatler writer Daisy Waugh explained in the Evening Standard. If you're classy, she said, you never look provincial, never wear anything coordinated, "and never ever look as though you've tried." "And poor old Princess Di will keep trying," Ms. Waugh said.

Cameroon president marries

YAOUNDE (R) — Cameroon's president Paul Biya, a widower aged 61, has married a 24-year-old beauty, her proud Lebanese foster parents said. "Chantal is a very serious and very grateful person. Even if you just give her a sweet she is grateful," Sabeh Azar, her foster father, told Reuters in one of his restaurants. "She is such a beautiful girl, so kind and modest. Oh, I do hope you meet her but it is difficult now because you need the authorisation of presidential security," said Nadia Hajal, her foster aunt. Mr. Biya's relationship with Chantal Vigouroux has been the talk of Yaounde, Cameroon's capital, for several weeks. But the first private newspaper to break government censorship and publish the news was quickly in trouble.